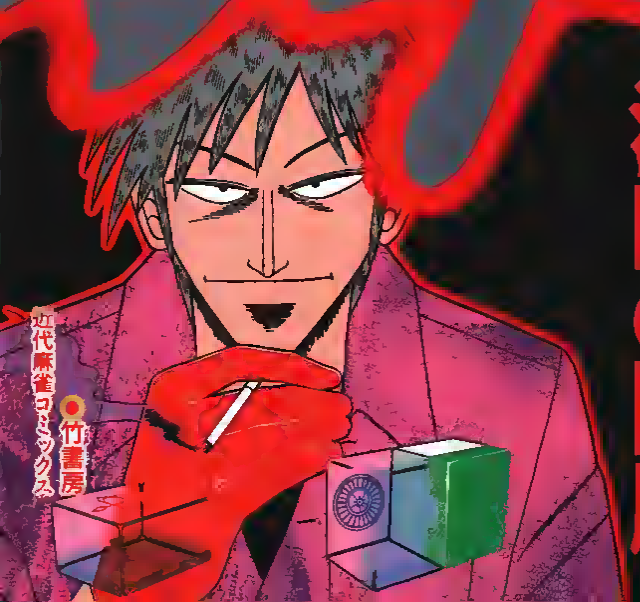
赤木

福本伸行

AKAGI Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第11巻



近代麻雀コミックス 竹書房

Kindai mahjong Comics

活眼の闘牌 11

闇に降り立った天才

活眼の闘牌

福本伸行

TAKE SHOBO

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闇に降り立った天才

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天

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●TAKE SHOBO●

赤木しげる

あらすじ

昭和33年。チキンランを生き残った少年・赤木しげるは、初めて打つ麻雀でも異才を発揮し、ヤクザ相手の勝負に次々と勝利を収めてゆく。

昭和40年。退屈に倦んだ資産家・鷲巣は、血液を賭ける狂気の麻雀を行っていた。彼の餌食となった若者の中にかつてアカギと戦った"一セアカギ"がいた。アカギ・仰木・安岡の3人は、殺人鬼・鷲巣を狩るため、生き血を賭けた勝負・鷲巣麻雀に挑んだ。1回戦、2回戦とも辛くもアカギの勝利となるが……!?

登場人物

鷲巣

権力を利用して巨万の富を築いた老人。麻雀で若者の命をもてあそぶ

安岡

不良刑事。アカギを立てて賭けの資産5億円を奪おうとしている

仰木

稲田組の若頭。安岡の誘いに乗りアカギを使って鷲巣に挑戦する

鈴木

鷲巣の部下。今回の対局の鷲巣のアシスタント役

【鷲巣麻雀概要】

アカギが半荘6回戦を戦い抜けばアカギ側の勝利。途中でアカギが絶命すれば、それまでに得た現金も全て没収、鷲巣側の勝利となる。

●レート：1000点＝100万円＝血液100c.c.。アカギと鷲巣のサシ勝負。ウマ（1万・3万）・オカを加算したポイント差で半荘ごとに精算。アカギの致死量2000c.c.は点棒2万点に相当し、鷲巣の現有資産5億円は50万点に相当する。

●ガラス牌：1種4牌のうち3枚が透明ガラス牌。

●ボーナス払い：半荘精算時以外にも、アカギと鷲巣の間で直接点棒の移動があった場合には、その局ごとに血液or現金をやりとりする。

●鷲巣側の特例：半荘2回を区切りとして勝負を続行するか、途中終了するかを、鷲巣側のみ選択できる。

目次

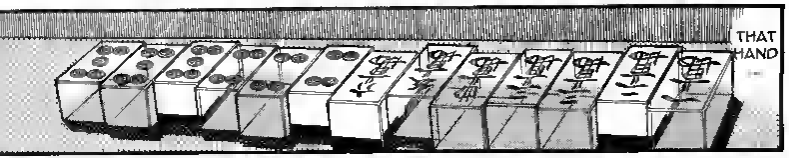
◎『近代麻雀』平成11年10月号～12月号
平成12年2月1日号～2月15日号
平成13年6月15日号～8月1日号所載

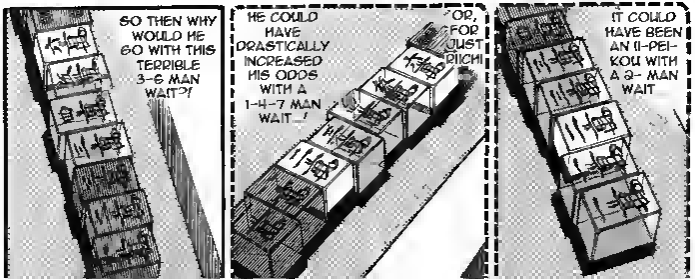
CHAPTER 91 - DEFROSTING ——— 7
CHAPTER 92 - OPERATION ——— 31
CHAPTER 93 - WILLING ——— 55
CHAPTER 94 - PREMONITION ——— 79
CHAPTER 95 - LIGHTNING ——— 105
CHAPTER 96 - MASSIVE LUCK ——— 131
CHAPTER 97 - POSTPONEMENT ——— 155
CHAPTER 98 - GREED ——— 181
CHAPTER 99 - GHOULS ——— 207

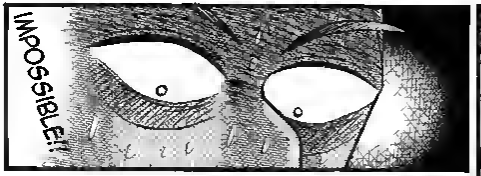
CHAPTER 91 - DEFROSTING
第91話解凍

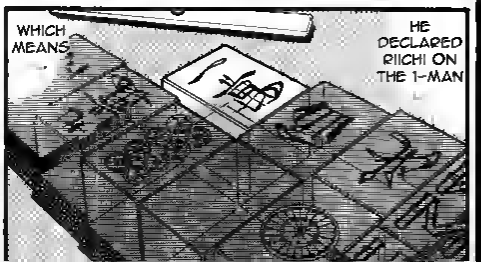
ざわ…

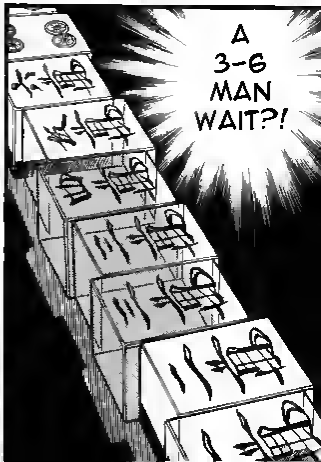
ざわ…
ざわ…

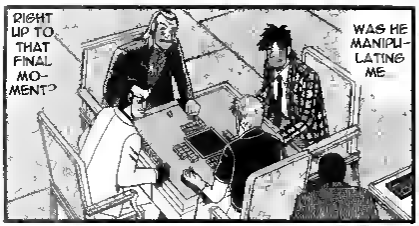

THAT HAND


SO THEN WHY WOULD HE GO WITH THIS TERRIBLE 3-6 MAN WAIT?!
HE COULD HAVE DRASTICALLY INCREASED HIS ODDS WITH A 1-4-7 MAN WAIT...!
OR, FOR JUST RIICHI
IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN II-PEI-KOU WITH A 3- MAN WAIT


IMPOSSIBLE!!

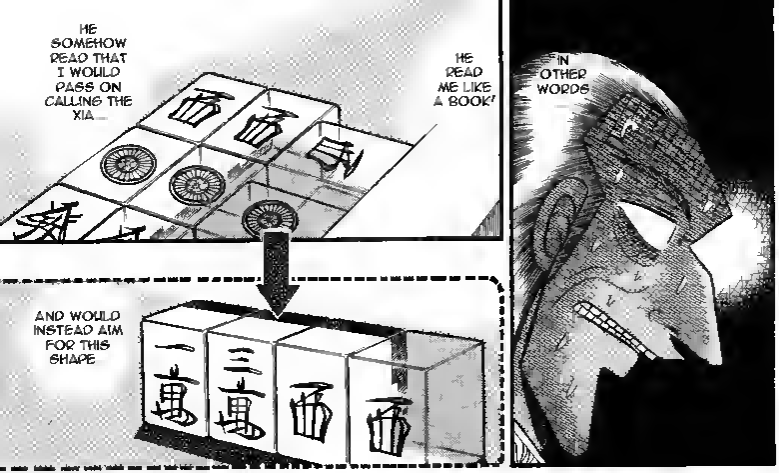

WHICH MEANS
HE DECLARED RIICHI ON THE 1-MAN

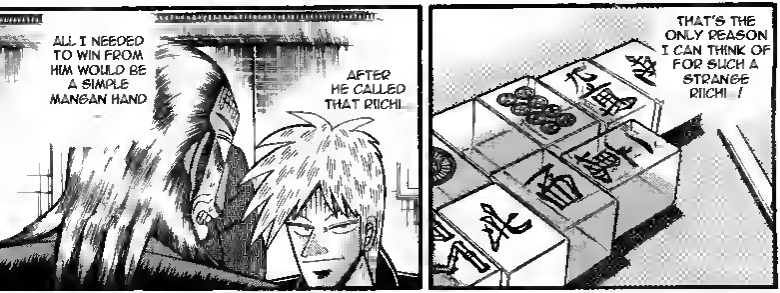

A 3-6 MAN WAIT?!

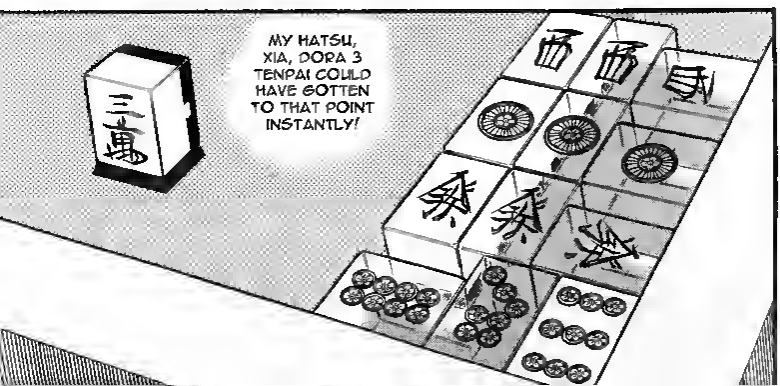

RIGHT UP TO THAT FINAL MO-MENT?
WAS HE MANIPU-LATING ME

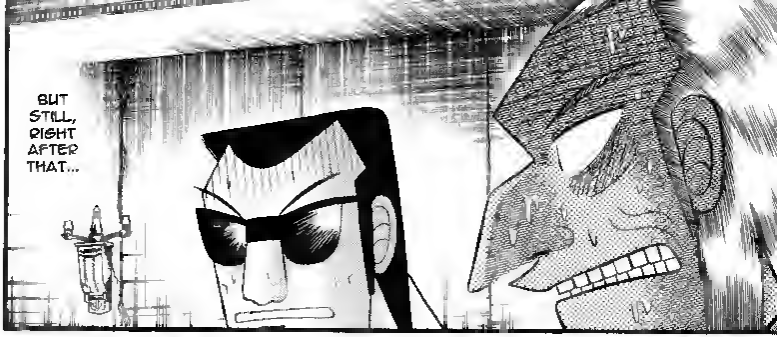
COULD HE HAVE BEEN LEADING ME ON ?

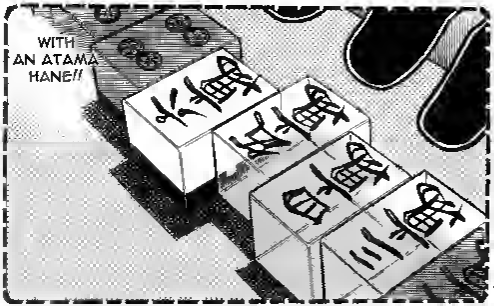
THAT LITTLE TWERP !


HE SOMEHOW READ THAT I WOULD PASS ON CALLING THE XIA...
HE READ ME LIKE A BOOK!
IN OTHER WORDS...
AND WOULD INSTEAD AIM FOR THIS SHAPE

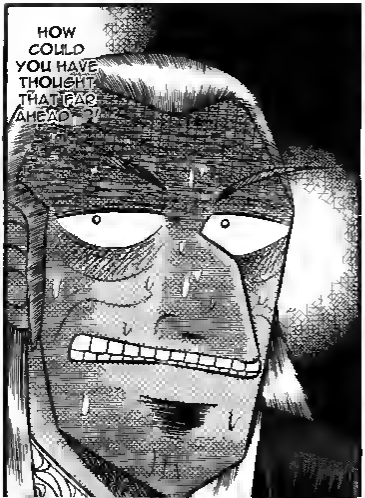

ALL I NEEDED TO WIN FROM HIM WOULD BE A SIMPLE MANGAN HAND
AFTER HE CALLED THAT RICHI...
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I CAN THINK OF FOR SUCH A STRANGE RICHI...!


MY HATSU, XIA, DORA 3 TENPAI COULD HAVE GOTTEN TO THAT POINT INSTANTLY!

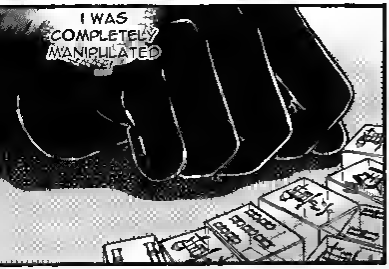

BUT STILL, RIGHT AFTER THAT...

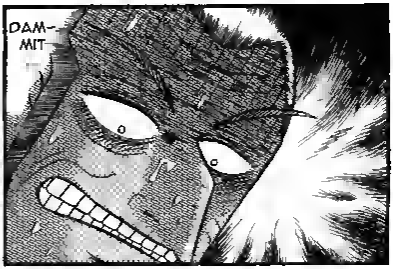

WITH AN ATAMA-HANE!!

THAT 3-MAN ...
YOU COULD HAVE STOLEN MY WINNING TILE FROM SUZUKI!!!


HOW COULD YOU HAVE THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD...?

ガシャ

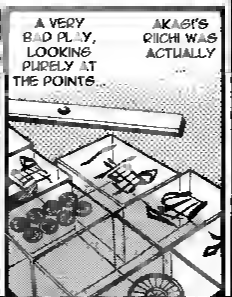

I WAS COMPLETELY MANIPULATED

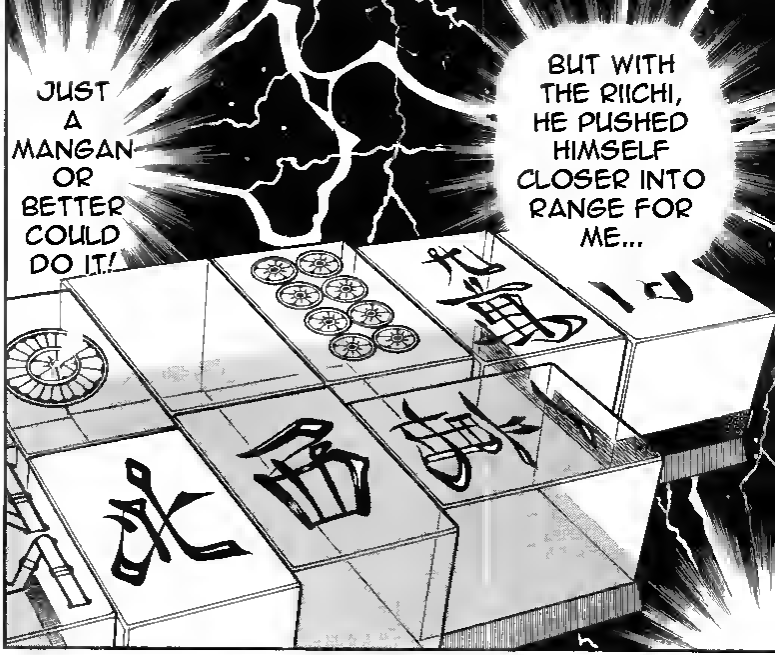

DAM-MIT

THAT RIICHI WAS PRACTICALLY SCREAMING SUSPICION!
LOOKING BACK ON IT, IT'S SO OBVIOUS!

WHY COULDN'T I SENSE THAT?!

WITH A HANEMAN OR BETTER HAND...
RIGHT BEFORE IT, I WOULD HAVE NEEDED TO OVER-TAKE HIM ...


A VERY BAD PLAY, LOOKING PURELY AT THE POINTS...
AKAGI'S RIICHI WAS ACTUALLY ...


JUST A MANGAN OR BETTER COULD DO IT!
BUT WITH THE RIICHI, HE PUSHED HIMSELF CLOSER INTO RANGE FOR ME...

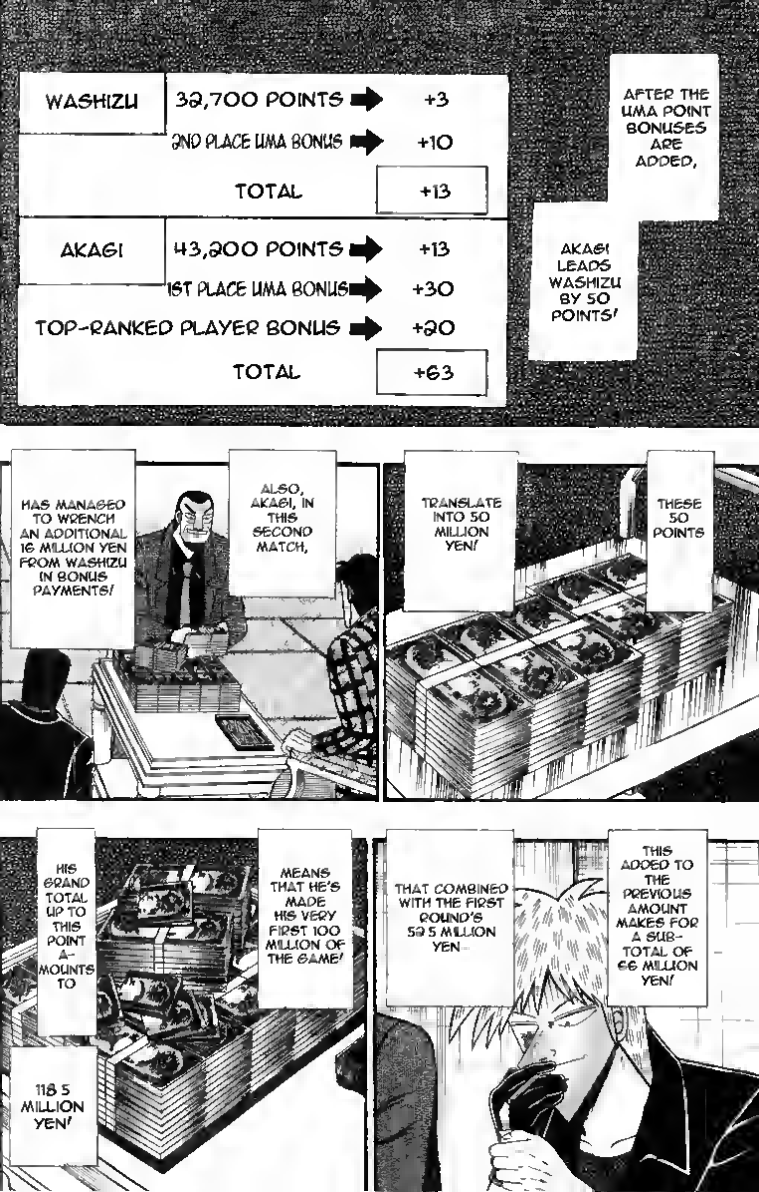
IT WAS DANGLING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

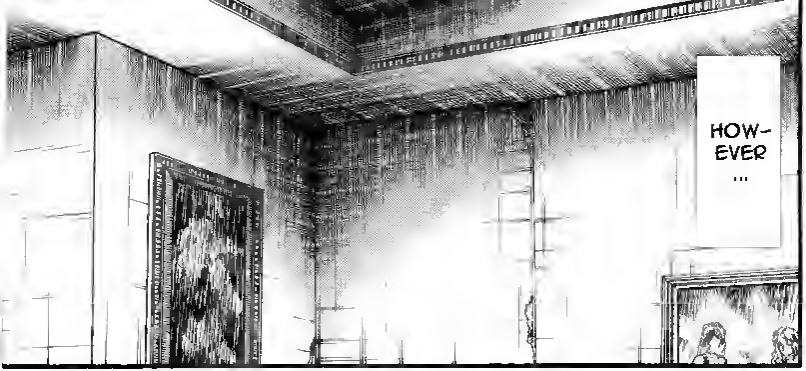
DOING THAT, HE MUST HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF ULTERIOR MOTIVE...!
IT WAS SO DAMN OBVIOUS

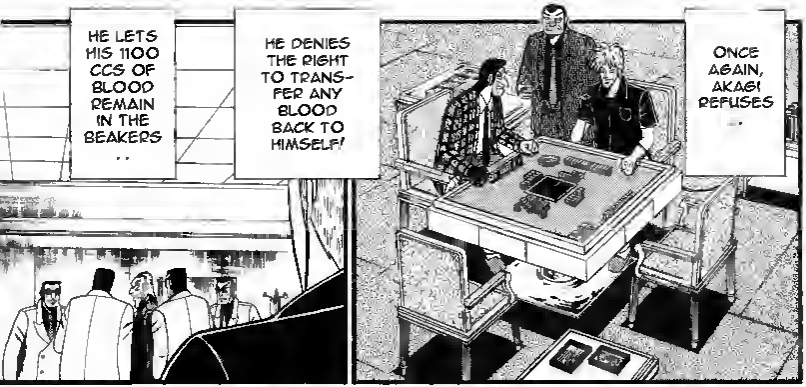
GOD DAMMIT

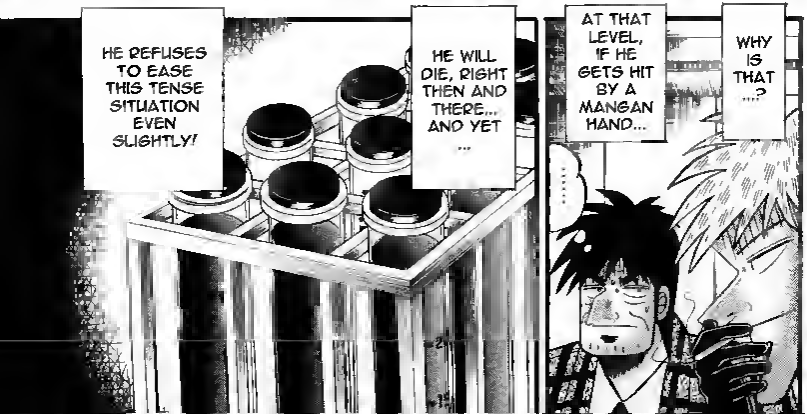
AND WITH THAT ...

IT SEEMED LIKE A CLOSE MATCH, BUT, AT THE END, AKAGI HAD 43,200 POINTS AS OPPOSED TO WASHIZU'S 32,700...
THE DIFFER-ENCE BETWEEN THE TWO WAS OVER 10,000 POINTS!
RE-SUL-TED-LY ...
AKAGI AND WASHIZU'S SECOND MATCH DRAWS TO A CLOSE.


WASHIZU
32,700 POINTS
+3
2ND PLACE UMA BONUS
+10
TOTAL
+13
AKAGI
43,200 POINTS
+13
1ST PLACE UMA BONUS
+30
TOP-RANKED PLAYER BONUS
+20
TOTAL
+63
AFTER THE UMA POINT BONUSES ARE ADDED,
AKAGI LEADS WASHIZU BY 50 POINTS!
HAS MANAGED TO WRENCH AN ADDITIONAL 16 MILLION YEN FROM WASHIZU IN BONUS PAYMENTS!
ALSO, AKAGI, IN THIS SECOND MATCH,
TRANSLATE INTO 50 MILLION YEN!
THESE 50 POINTS
HIS GRAND TOTAL UP TO THIS POINT AMOUNTS TO
118 5 MILLION YEN!
MEANS THAT HE'S MADE HIS VERY FIRST 100 MILLION OF THE GAME!
THAT COMBINED WITH THE FIRST ROUND'S 59 5 MILLION YEN...
THIS ADDED TO THE PREVIOUS AMOUNT MAKES FOR A SUB-TOTAL OF 66 MILLION YEN!


HOW-
EVER
...

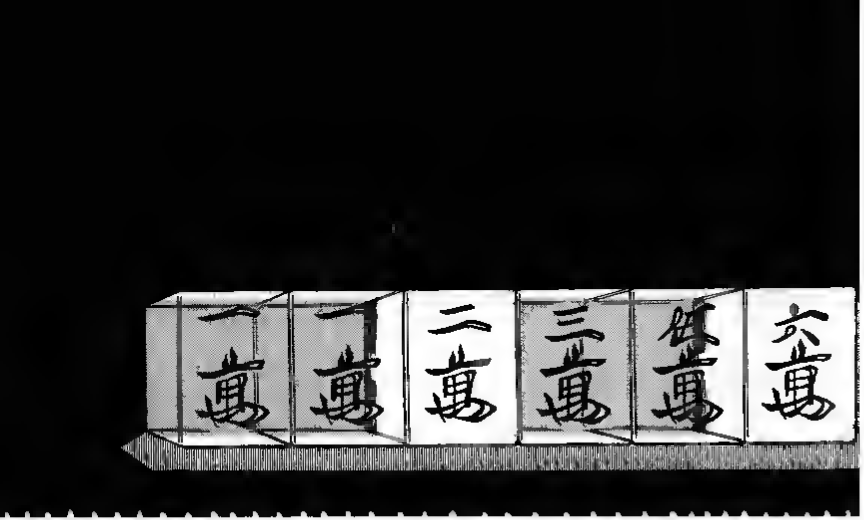

HE LETS HIS 1100 CCS OF BLOOD REMAIN IN THE BEAKERS ..
HE DENIES THE RIGHT TO TRANS-FER ANY BLOOD BACK TO HIMSELF!
ONCE AGAIN, AKAGI REFUSES ..

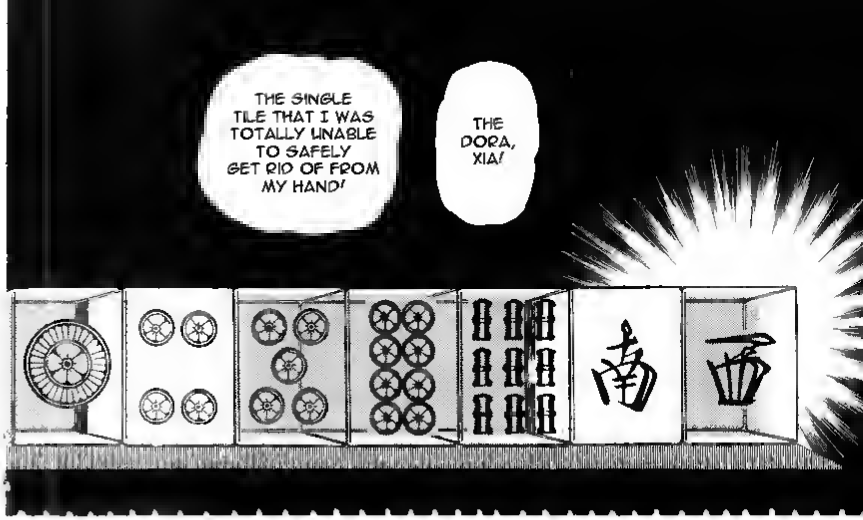

HE REFUSES TO EASE THIS TENSE SITUATION EVEN SLIGHTLY!
HE WILL DIE, RIGHT THEN AND THERE... AND YET ...
AT THAT LEVEL, IF HE GETS HIT BY A MANGAN HAND...
WHY IS THAT ....?
.....

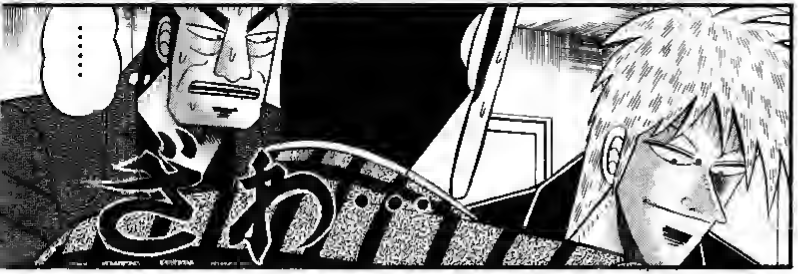
……

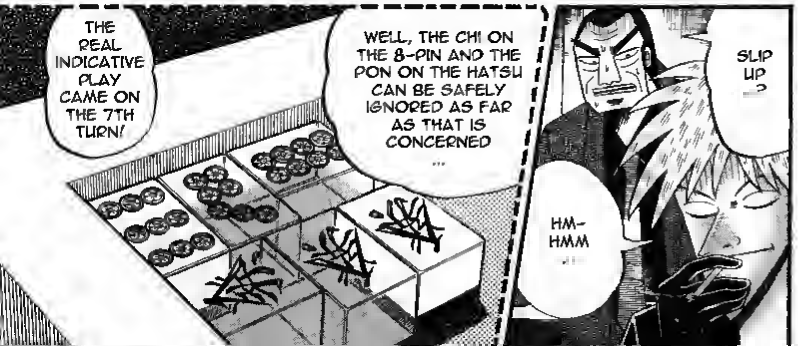
WHY ARE YOU STILL DOING THIS…
AKAGI…
WHY WON'T YOU GET ANY OF YOUR BLOOD BACK AT ALL?!
DOING THIS WON'T EVEN BENEFIT YOU THE SLIGHTEST BIT!
HM-HM-HMM…
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT…

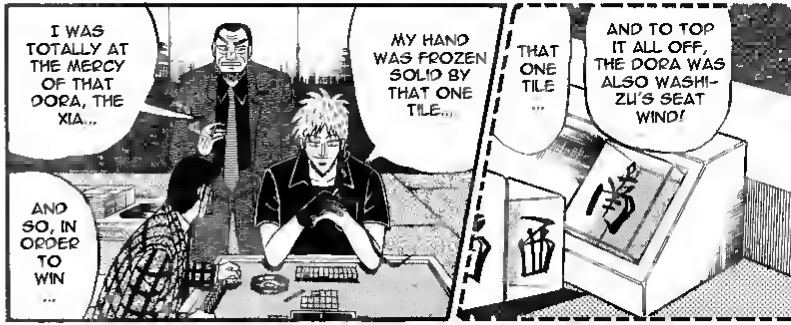
THINK BACK TO THAT LAST ROUND ...
AS AN EX-AM-PLE ...
HUH ....?
.....
PAVED THE ROAD TOWARDS MY VICTORY.
IN IT, THE FACT THAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY DENIED THE RIGHT TO TRANSFER BLOOD BACK ...
MY HAND WAS IN SERIOUS PERIL..
AT THE START OF THE LAST ROUND,
NEED-LESS TO SAY ...
IT ... IT DID ...?
THAT CURSED TILE THAT I COULDN'T QUITE SHAKE OFF
AND THAT WAS DUE TO ..



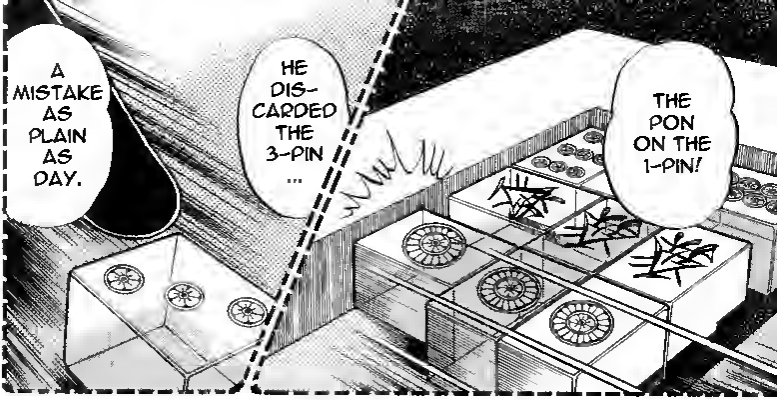

THE SINGLE TILE THAT I WAS TOTALLY UNABLE TO SAFELY GET RID OF FROM MY HAND!
THE DORA, XIA!

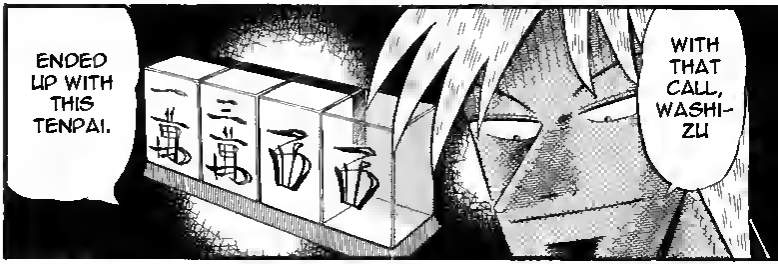

……
さわ…


THE REAL INDICATIVE PLAY CAME ON THE 7TH TURN!
WELL, THE CHI ON THE 8-PIN AND THE PON ON THE HATSU CAN BE SAFELY IGNORED AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED …
HM-HMM …
SLIP UP…?


I WAS TOTALLY AT THE MERCY OF THAT DORA, THE XIA…
MY HAND WAS FROZEN SOLID BY THAT ONE TILE…
THAT ONE TILE …
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THE DORA WAS ALSO WASHIZU'S SEAT WIND!
AND SO, IN ORDER TO WIN …

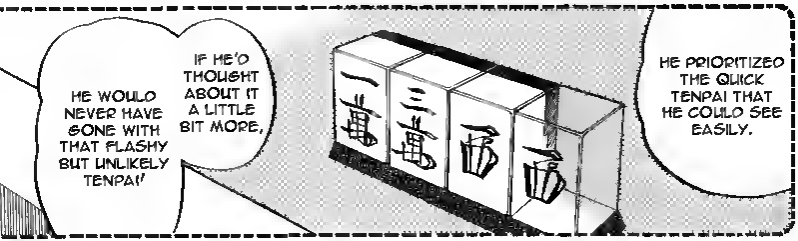
I NEEDED HIS HELP … I NEEDED WASHIZU TO SLIP UP!
BUT, I COULDN'T DO THAT ALL BY MYSELF.
WHAT I NEEDED TO DO WAS TO DEFROST MY HAND AND FREE IT…


A MISTAKE AS PLAIN AS DAY.
HE DIS-CARDED THE 3-PIN ...
THE PON ON THE 1-PIN!

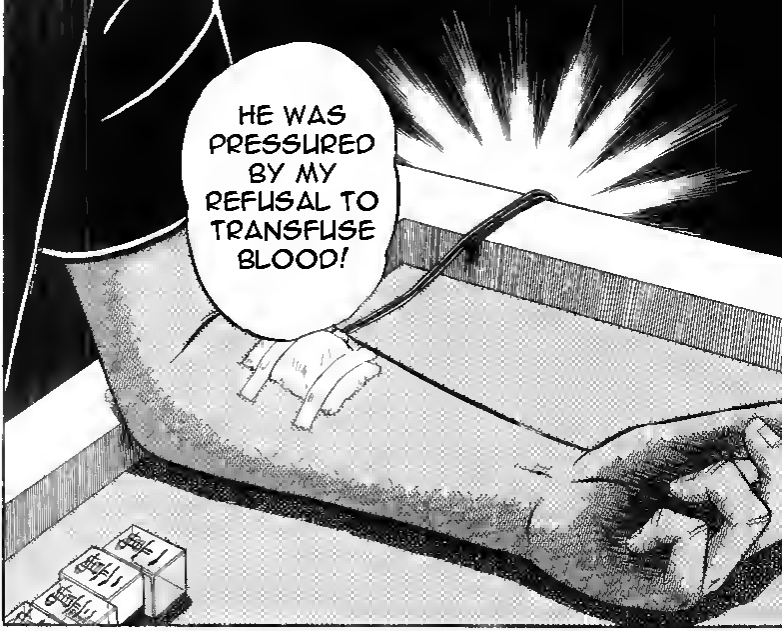

ENDED UP WITH THIS TENPAI.
WITH THAT CALL, WASHI-ZU

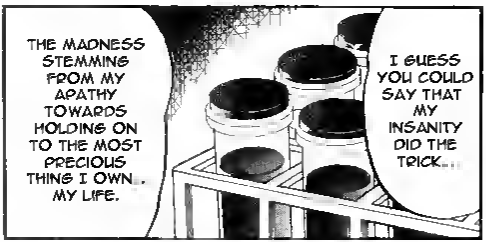
THOSE TILES WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT FOR HON ITSU!
THE PAIR OF 1-PINS AND THE LONE 3-PIN...
WAITING ON CHANTA TILES WAS A BAD DECISION.
WITH THAT HAND ...
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE LIKELY TO GET A WIN!
IF HE TOOK THAT ...

A VERY POOR CHOICE...
HE RUSHED TO GET TO TENPAI HE DION'T NEED TO, BUT, TO GET A QUICK WIN.
HE DID, ANYWAY
HE DID SO, PUTTING IT FIRST...

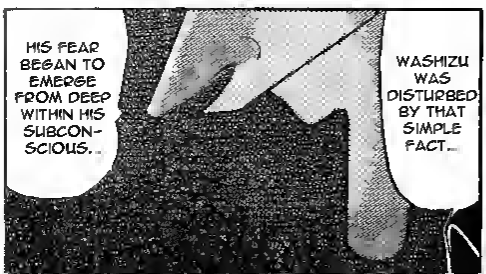

HE PRIORITIZED THE QUICK TENPAI THAT HE COULD SEE EASILY.
IF HE'D THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LITTLE BIT MORE,
HE WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE WITH THAT FLASHY BUT UNLIKELY TENPAI!

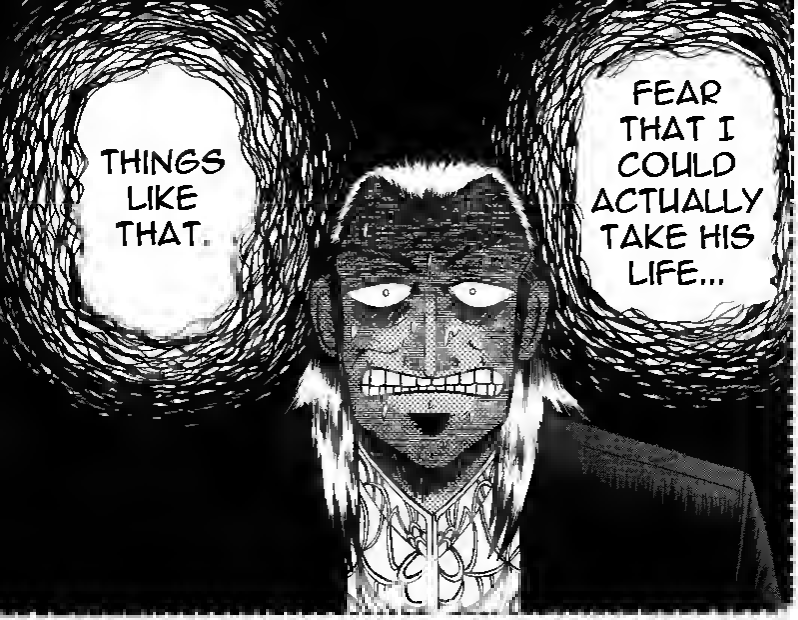
BUT IN REALITY, HE DID GET LED ASTRAY TO AN IMPRESSIVE, BUT INEFFECTIVE, TENPAI... THOUGH, THAT BEGS A QUESTION...
WHERE?
WHERE DID DID THAT IMPATIENT, EVEN FOOLISH, MOVE COME FROM?
IN THE END...
THE REASON IS SIMPLE... HE FELT PRESSURED.


HE WAS PRESSURED BY MY REFUSAL TO TRANSFUSE BLOOD!


THE MADNESS STEMMING FROM MY APATHY TOWARDS HOLDING ON TO THE MOST PRECIOUS THING I OWN... MY LIFE.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT MY INSANITY DID THE TRICK...

WHA ...?!
TO PUT IT INTO WORDS...


HIS FEAR BEGAN TO EMERGE FROM DEEP WITHIN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS..
WASHIZU WAS DISTURBED BY THAT SIMPLE FACT...


FEAR THAT I COULD ACTUALLY TAKE HIS LIFE...
THINGS LIKE THAT.

AFTER SEEING ME SAY "I DON'T CARE IF I DIE OR NOT" THROUGH MY ACTIONS...
.....
WASHIZU COULD NOT HELP HIMSELF ...
BUT TO FEAR FOR HIS OWN LIFE!

OF COURSE ...
.....
HE PROBABLY HASN'T FIGURED THAT PART OUT YET...
PROBABLY BECAUSE HIS FEAR IS STILL IN VERY SMALL QUANTITIES ...
VERY MINISCULE.
HIS FEAR LIKELY MANI-FESTED IN,
IN-STEAD ...
A FEELING OF IMPA-TIENCE...
OR OF CONTEMPT TOWARDS ME...
WASHIZU MISREAD HIS OWN EMOTIONS.
HUH...
HM-HM-HMM ...

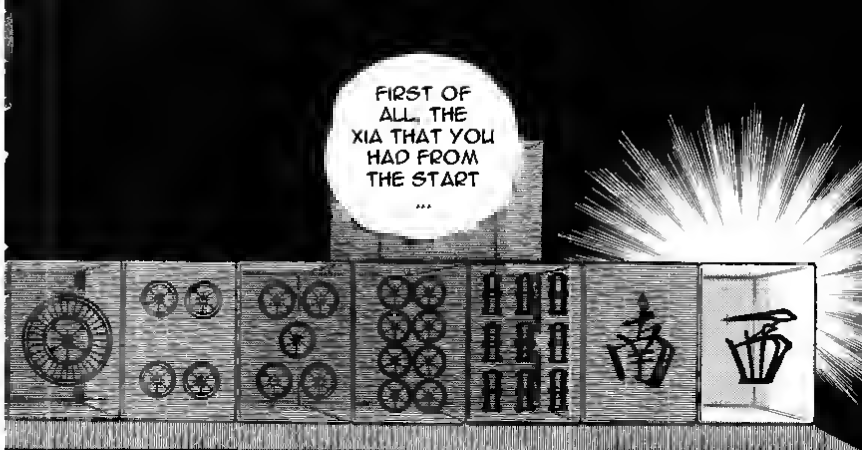
AND YET, STILL ...
HIS MENTAL BALANCE TOPPLED OVER....
THAT MISTAKE OF A CHOICE WAS THE OUTCOME.
AND IN FACT, IT WAS WHAT OPENED UP A PATH FOR ME...
AND IN THE END ...
A VERY VALUABLE CHANCE!
IT GAVE ME JUST THE TOOLS I NEEDED ...
TO BE RID OF THAT DASTARDLY XIA THAT WAS HOLDING UP MY HAND!
THAT SINGLE PLAY ALLOWED MY FROZEN HAND...
TO THAW AND MOVE FORWARD!
THE TENPAI THAT MY INSANITY PRO-VOKED...
AL-LOWED MY HAND TO
FINALLY ADVANCE!

HIS PAIR OF OORA LOST ALL MEANING
ざわ…
ANO MY XIA BECAME THE ONE WITH ALL THE POWER!
ANO, AT THE EXACT SAME TIME
WITH THIS VERY EFFECTIVE BLUFF!
WITH IT, I WAS ABLE TO TRICK WASHIZU RIGHT BEFORE HIS EYES...
南
西

CHAPTER 93 - OPERATION

第92話操作

.....
ざわ...
ざわ...
I'D LIKE TO HAVE THEM ANSWERED, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS, AS WELL...
ABOUT THAT XIA YOU HAD ...
DON'T JUST SKIP AROUND!
THERE ARE STILL THINGS ABOUT THAT MATCH THAT YOU HAVEN'T EXPLAINED YET!
YOU'RE TALKING LIKE IT WAS ALL PART OF YOUR STRATEGY, BUT...
HOW DID THAT WORK INTO YOUR STRATEGY...?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
WAIT.
I MEAN, YOU JUST SUDDENLY GOT RID OF IT AFTER KEEPING IT FOR SO LONG...
A BLUFF...?

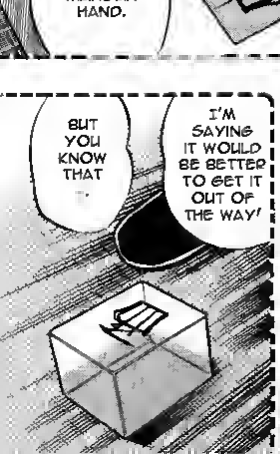

FIRST OF ALL, THE XIA THAT YOU HAD FROM THE START ...

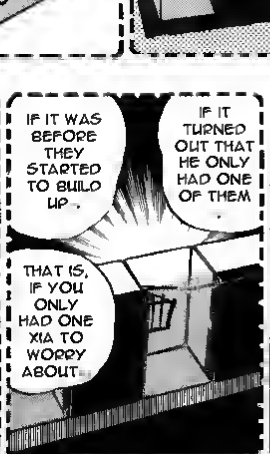
HE COULD CALL IT FOR XIA, DORA 3 ...
AN INSTANT MANGAN HAND.

THAT HE HAD A PAIR OF XIAS RIGHT AT THE START ...
IF WE SUPPOSE THAT HE HAD TWO OF THE DORA XIA ...

PLAY THE XIA RIGHT OFF THE BAT?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU COULDN'T ...

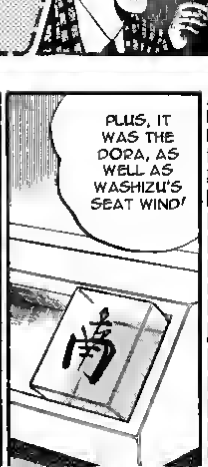
HOW ...
THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T QUITE GET...


BUT YOU KNOW THAT ...
I'M SAYING IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GET IT OUT OF THE WAY!


IF IT WAS BEFORE THEY STARTED TO BUILD UP.
IF IT TURNED OUT THAT HE ONLY HAD ONE OF THEM.
THAT IS, IF YOU ONLY HAD ONE XIA TO WORRY ABOUT...

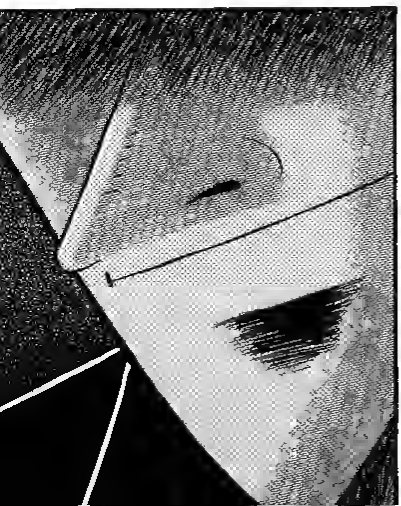
BUT ...
IT'S ONLY REASONABLE TO BE RELUCTANT...

I CAN SEE WHY YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME HESITATION TO DEAL IT...
IT WAS OBVIOUSLY RISKY TO PLAY IT ...

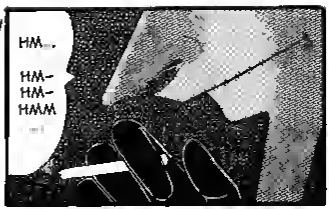

PLUS, IT WAS THE DORA, AS WELL AS WASHIZU'S SEAT WIND!

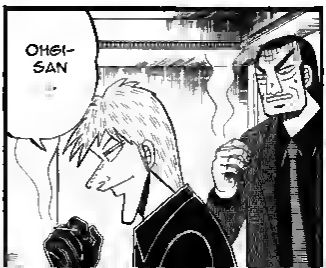
WE KNEW THAT WASHIZU HAD AT LEAST ONE OF THE TILE...
OF COURSE ...
THE XIA, THAT IS ...

IT'S LIKE YOU KNEW FOR A FACT.
FROM THE WAY YOU SAY IT.
SIMPLY ESSENTIAL!
STILL, IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION...
DEFINITELY!
AND YET...
...THAT WASHIZU'S XIA WAS PART OF A PAIR FROM THE VERY START OF THE MATCH!
SO HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
HE HADN'T EVEN DEALT ONE TILE AT THAT POINT!
I MEAN...
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
AND SO I NEED TO KNOW...
HOW?!



REALLY ... WHAT I SAW WAS MORE THAN E-NOUGH ...

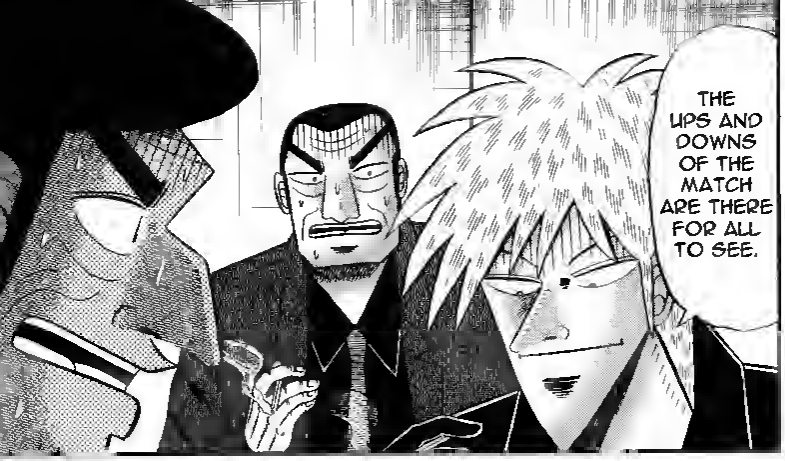




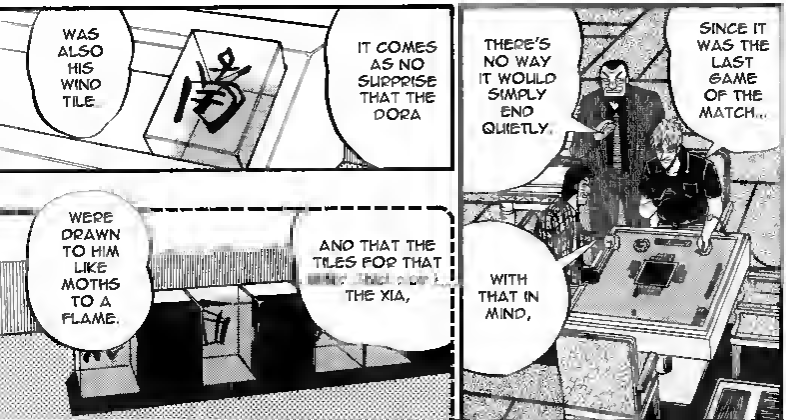
WASHIZU ALREADY HAD DEALT SEVERAL TILES.

HUH ?!
OVER THE SECOND HANCHAN
I'D HAD THE CHANCE TO SEE WASHIZU'S DISCARDS MANY TIMES OVER THE WHOLE SESSION.
ざわ…

THAT... THAT CAN'T BE !
HMM-HM
IT'S PRETTY EASY TO CATCH SIGHT OF THE FLOW
WELL, AT LEAST


THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE MATCH ARE THERE FOR ALL TO SEE.

WITH A HANDLE ON THE REACHES OF HIS NATURAL-BORN LUCK...
BE APPLIED TO WASHIZU.
THEN,
THAT INFOR-MATION CAN,

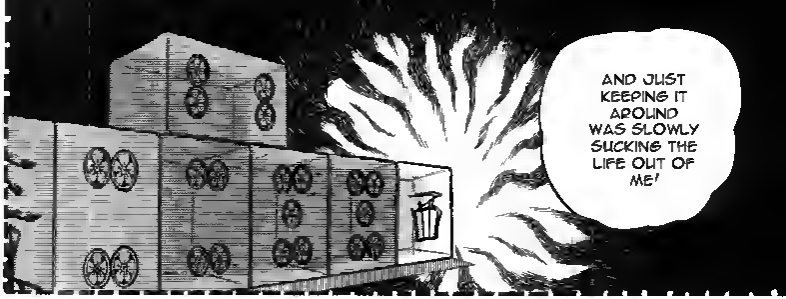

WAS ALSO HIS WIND TILE.
IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE DORA
WERE DRAWN TO HIM LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME.
AND THAT THE TILES FOR THAT
THE XIA,
THERE'S NO WAY IT WOULD SIMPLY END QUIETLY.
SINCE IT WAS THE LAST GAME OF THE MATCH...
WITH THAT IN MIND,

JUST PART OF HIS LUCK
TO TOP IT ALL OFF, HIS LUCK
DROVE A STAKE INTO MY HAND WITH MY OWN XIA
OHGI-SAN...
WITH ALL OF THOSE FACTORS, IT'S NO LONGER A COINCIDENCE
THAT DORA, XIA,
WAS SENT DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS TO AID WASHIZU AND HELP HIM ON HIS WAY TO A VICTORY
A MES-SEN-GER!
THAT TILE WAS INDICATIVE THAT THE HEAVENS HAD TAKEN WASHIZU'S SIDE IN THIS BATTLE
WERE THE GAME TO PRO-CEED NOR-MALLY
THE GAME WOULD BE HANDED TO WASHIZU, NO PROBLEM
EH ?!

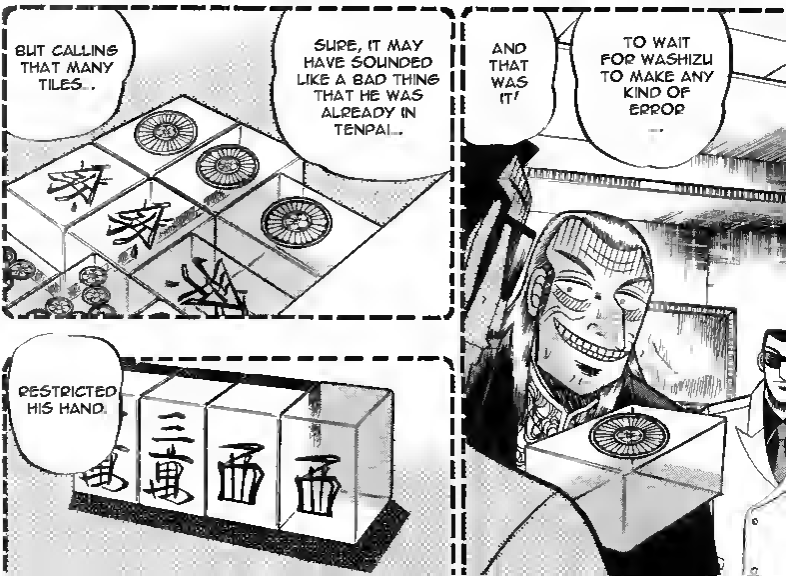
IT WAS AN ASSASSIN WITH A TICKING TIME BOMB.
THAT TILE WOULD BE THE DEATH OF ME IF IT WASN'T HANDLED WITH CARE

YEAH.
Washizu'd win..?

THOUGH, I'D BE PRACTICALLY HANDED 100 MILLION IF IT SUCCEEDED
HE'D HIT MANGAN, AND IT WOULD ALL BE OVER
HE WOULD CALL IT FOR SURE.
IF I PUSHED IN TO PLAY IT,


AND JUST KEEPING IT AROUND WAS SLOWLY SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF ME!

AND SO, I NEEDED ...
A VERY TRICKY TILE TO HANDLE CORRECTLY ...
.....


BUT CALLING THAT MANY TILES...
SURE, IT MAY HAVE SOUNDED LIKE A BAD THING THAT HE WAS ALREADY IN TENPAI...
AND THAT WAS IT!
TO WAIT FOR WASHIZU TO MAKE ANY KIND OF ERROR ...
RESTRICTED HIS HAND.

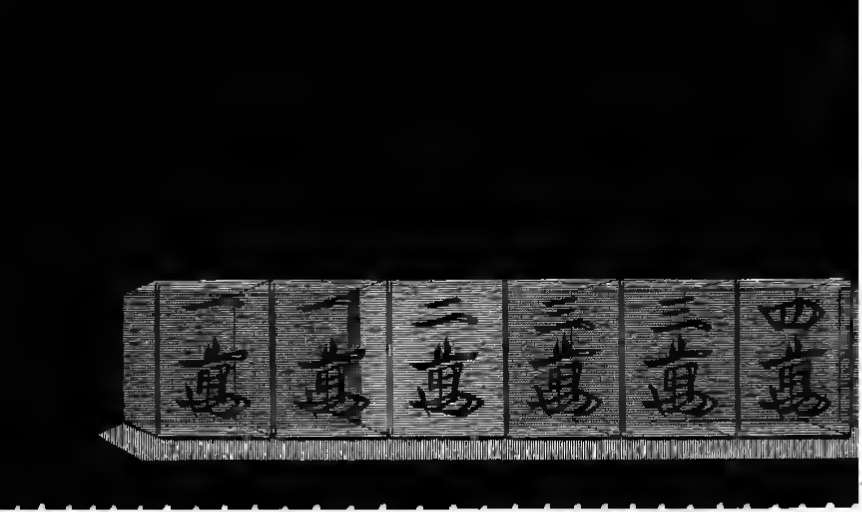
UP UNTIL THAT POINT.
WHEN HIS HAND BECAME LOCKED IN PLACE
I WAS UNABLE TO DEAL IT!
THROWING IT OUT AT ANY OTHER POINT WOULD JUST BE USELESS.
BEFORE I COULD, I NEEDED TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE I COULD SAFELY GET RID OF IT.
I HAD TO DO IT IN THAT ORDER ...
OR ELSE I WOULD FALL VICTIM TO HIM.
WITH NO CHANCE FOR RECOVERY

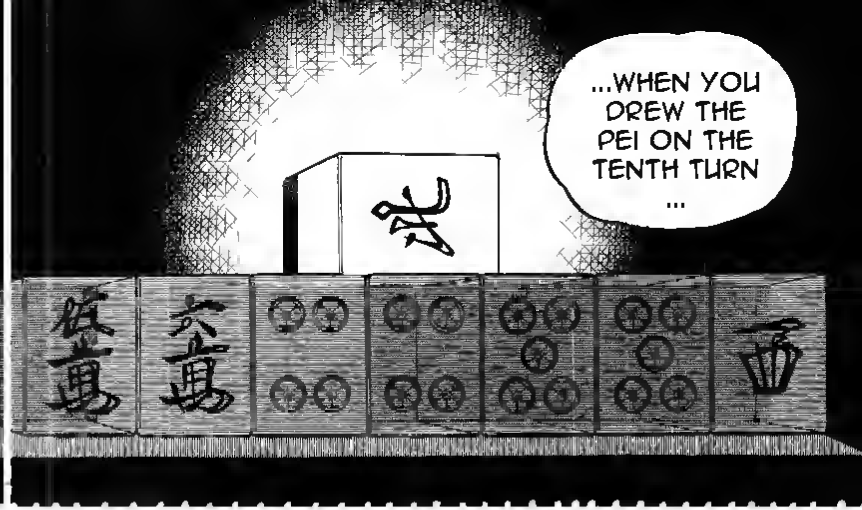
ざわ…

ざわ…
ざわ…

WASHIZU HAD ANOTHER DORA XIA
BOTH TILES IN THE PAIR WERE IN HIS HAND FROM THE START!
THEN... THAT MEANS ...
WAIT ... HOLD ON!
.....

THEN, DON'T YOU THINK
THAT IT WAS RATHER STRANGE ...
SURE AM.
AND YOU'RE TELLING US THAT YOU KNEW THAT FOR SURE?!
I MEAN, HE DID ...

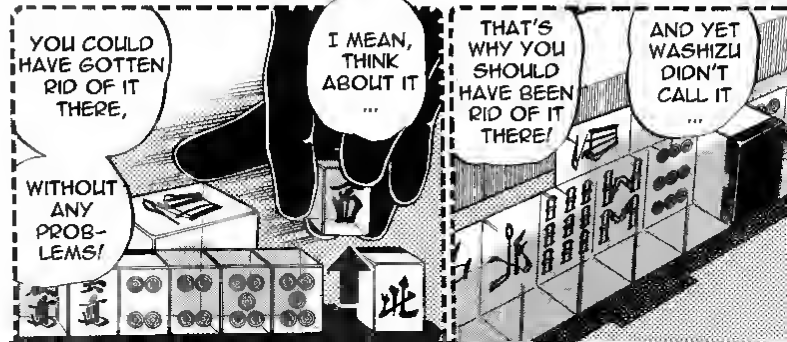


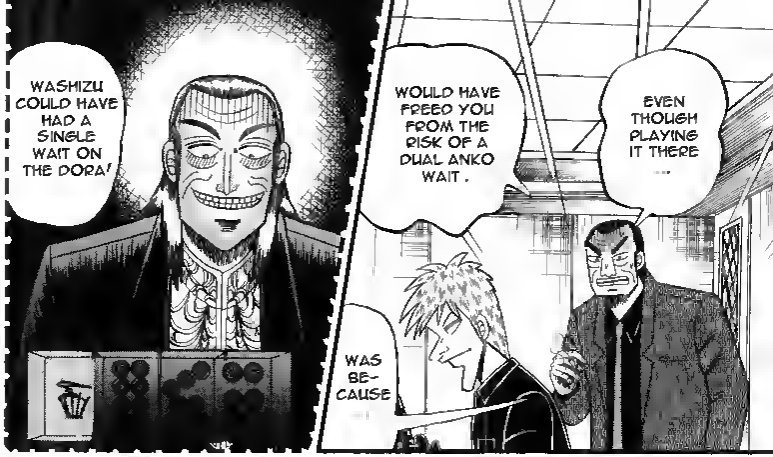

...WHEN YOU DREW THE PEI ON THE TENTH TURN ...

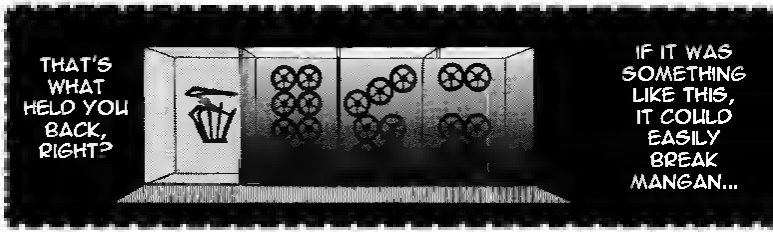
BUT YOU TOOK THAT RISK, REFUSING TO DEAL THE XIA FROM YOUR HAND!
TO A DOUBLE ANKO WAIT WITH THE DORA AND SOMETHING ELSE!
ON THE NEXT TURN, THERE WAS A RISK OF WASHIZU CHANGING HIS WAIT ...
IT'S LIKE YOU WERE AN AMA-TEUR...

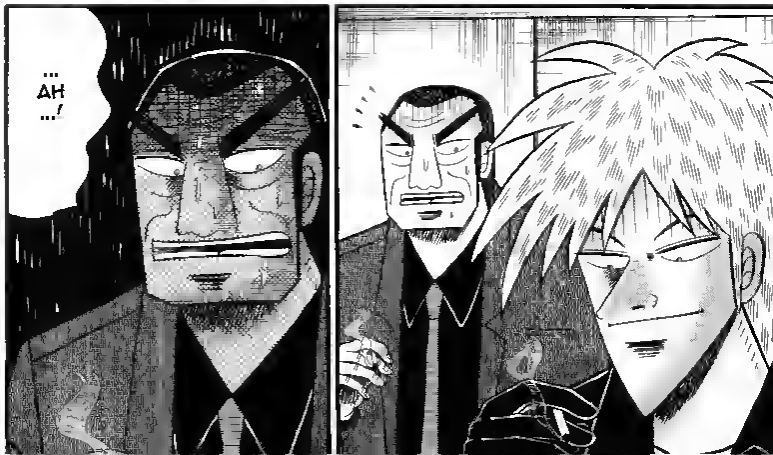
SUZUKI DREW HIS OWN DORA XIA...
ON THE NINTH TURN,
AND DISCARDED IT RIGHT AFTERWARDS ?!

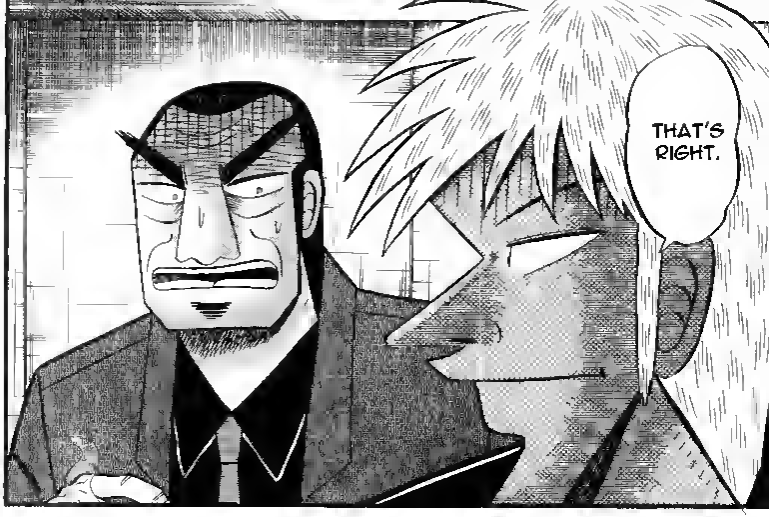
TO PUT AN END TO IT...
RIGHT THEN AND THERE,
THE ONLY REASON YOU DIDN'T PLAY IT ...
YOU KNOW, TO ME, IT SEEMS LIKE...

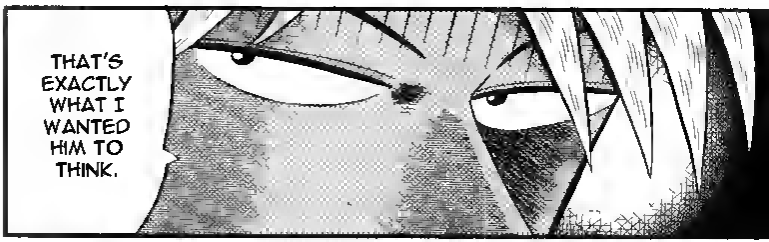

YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF IT THERE,
WITHOUT ANY PROB-LEMS!
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT ...
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN RID OF IT THERE!
AND YET WASHIZU DIDN'T CALL IT ...

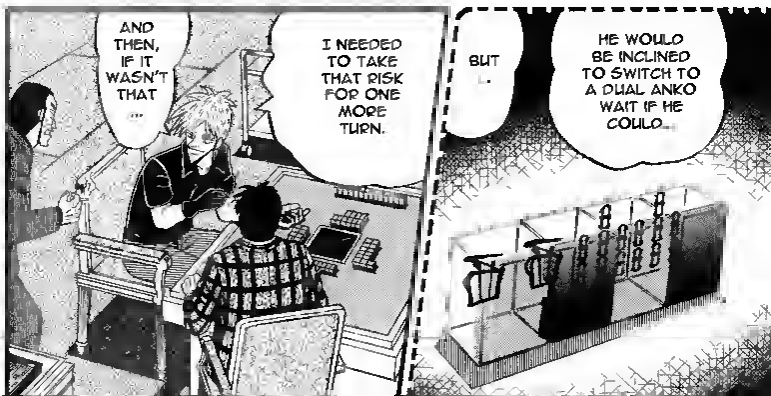

WASHIZU COULD HAVE HAD A SINGLE WAIT ON THE DORA!
WOULD HAVE FREED YOU FROM THE RISK OF A DUAL ANKO WAIT.
EVEN THOUGH PLAYING IT THERE...
WAS BE-CAUSE

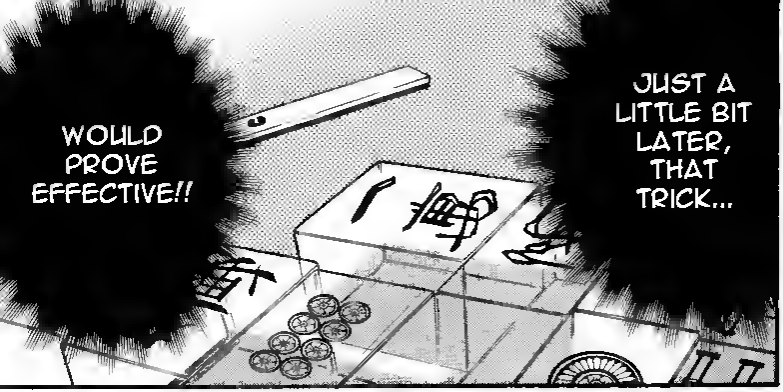

THAT'S WHAT HELD YOU BACK, RIGHT?
IF IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THIS, IT COULD EASILY BREAK MANGAN...

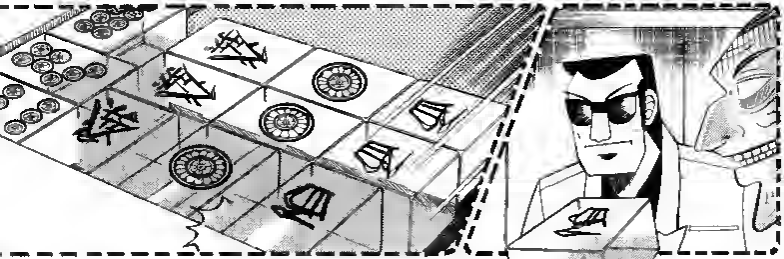

...AH...!

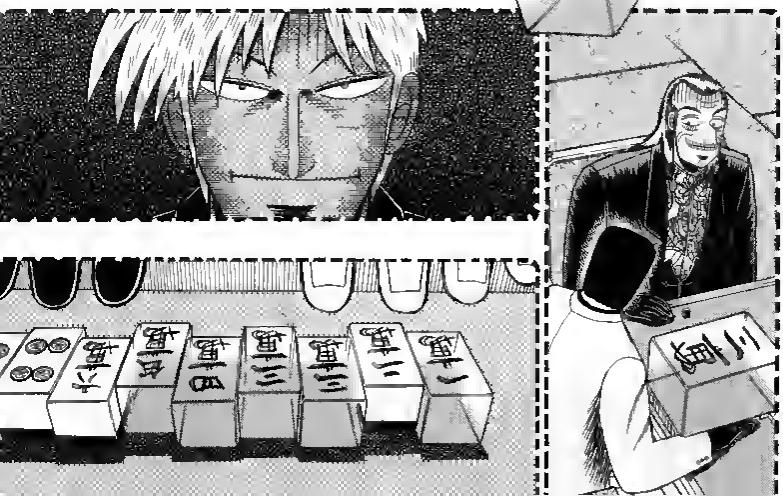

THAT'S RIGHT.


THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED HIM TO THINK.

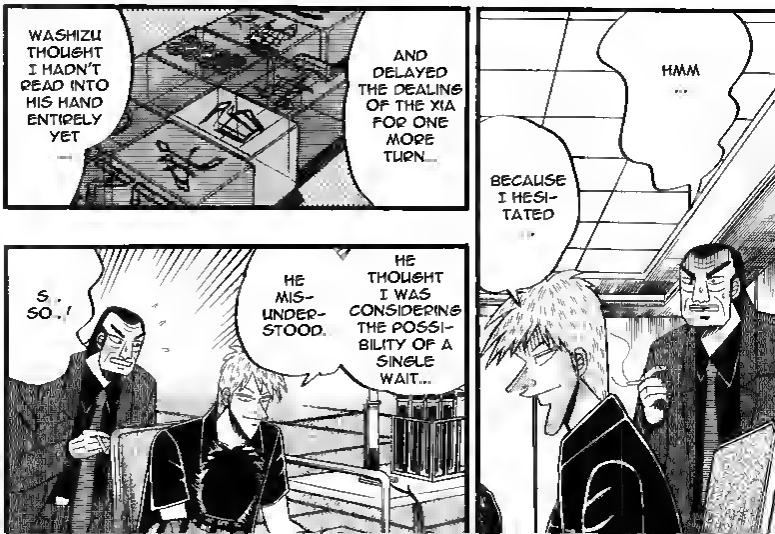

AND THEN, IF IT WASN'T THAT ...
I NEEDED TO TAKE THAT RISK FOR ONE MORE TURN.
BUT ...
HE WOULD BE INCLINED TO SWITCH TO A DUAL ANKO WAIT IF HE COULD...


JUST A LITTLE BIT LATER, THAT TRICK...
WOULD PROVE EFFECTIVE!!

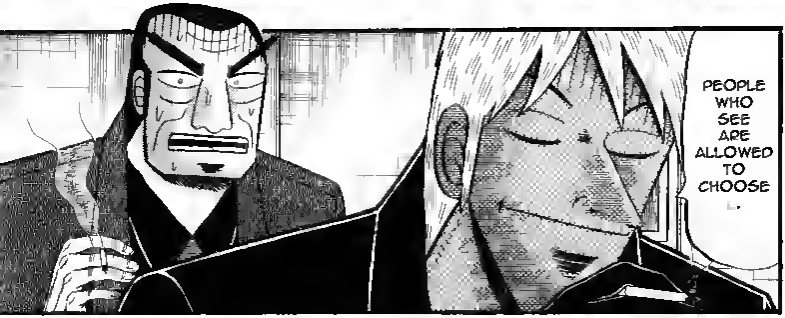


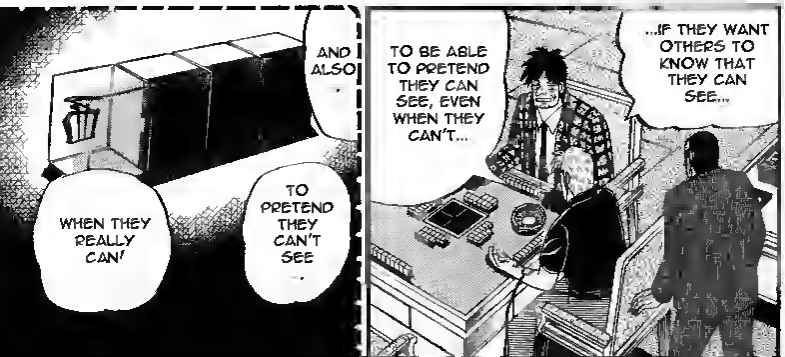


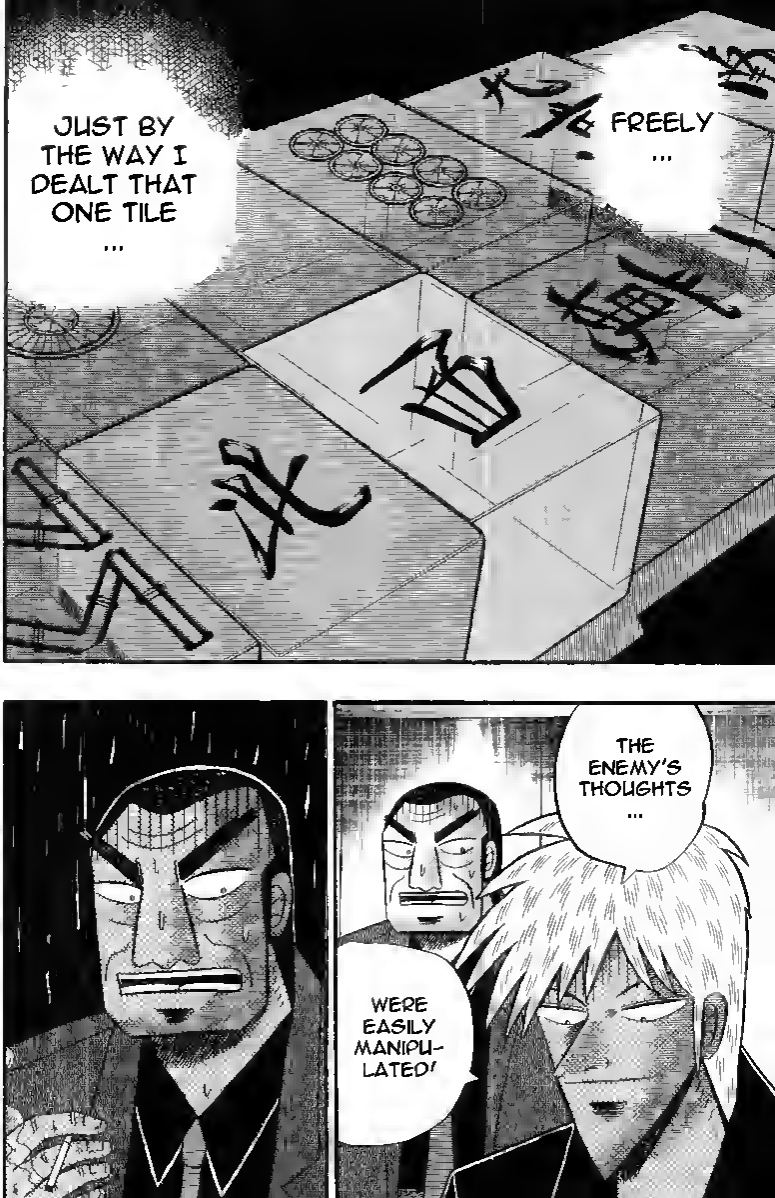
urgh
!

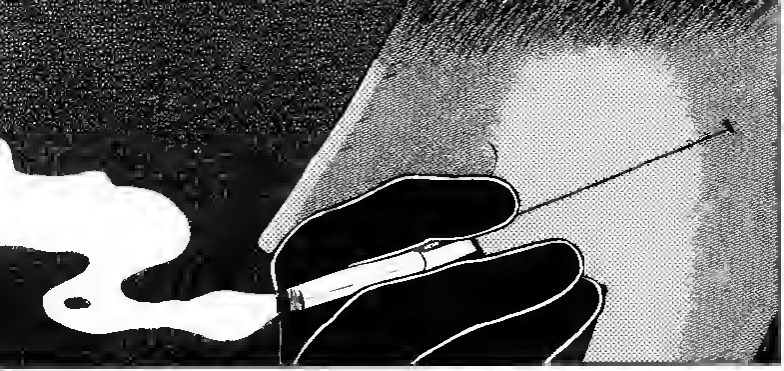

WASHIZU THOUGHT I HADN'T READ INTO HIS HAND ENTIRELY YET
AND DELAYED THE DEALING OF THE XIA FOR ONE MORE TURN...
HMM ...
BECAUSE I HESI-TATED ..
S. SO..!
HE MIS-UNDER-STOOD.
HE THOUGHT I WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSI-BILITY OF A SINGLE WAIT...

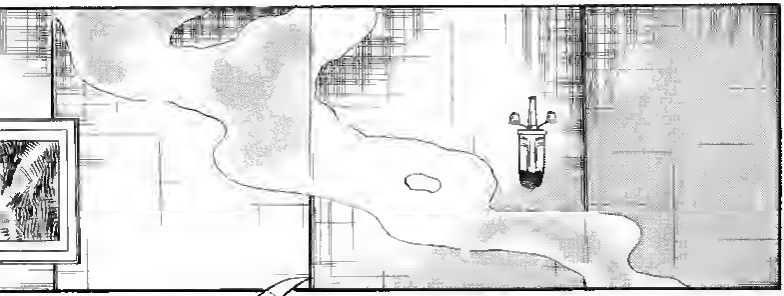
YOU BEHAVED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ON PURPOSE ..?!
YOU ..
HEH-HEH ...
OHGI-SAN ...

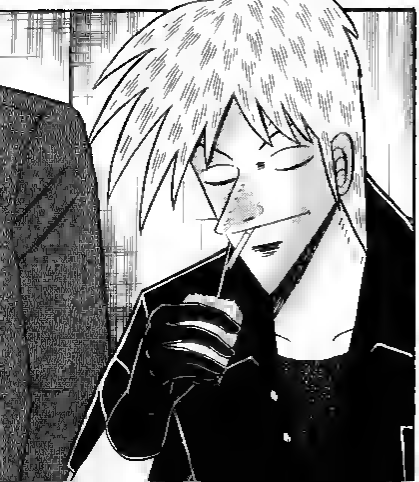

PEOPLE WHO SEE ARE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE .


AND ALSO .
TO PRETEND THEY CAN'T SEE .
WHEN THEY REALLY CAN!
TO BE ABLE TO PRETEND THEY CAN SEE, EVEN WHEN THEY CAN'T...
...IF THEY WANT OTHERS TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN SEE...


JUST BY THE WAY I DEALT THAT ONE TILE ...
FREELY ...
THE ENEMY'S THOUGHTS ...
WERE EASILY MANIPU-LATED!







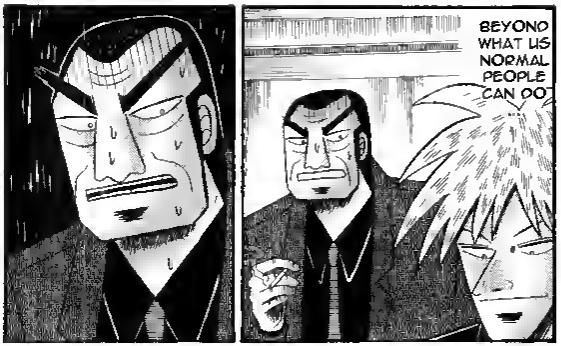
CHAPTER 93 - WILL

第93話 自在

THIS GUY ...
HE DIDN'T GET SIDETRACKED FOR EVEN A MOMENT ...!
HE PRETENDED TO BE ORDINARY ...
HE PURPOSELY CHOSE NOT TO!
IT WASN'T THAT HE COULDN'T DISCARD THE DORA XIA .
JUST BY NOT DEALING THAT ONE TILE!
HE EVEN FOOLED US

HE'S REALLY SOMETHING ELSE!
ARE JUST ORDINARY IN COM-PARISON
MAHJONG PLAYERS LIKE US
IN THE END
WELL, SOMETIMES WE GET AWAY FROM EVEN THAT, BUT.
AND HOW GOOD OUR LUCK IS WHEN WE PLAY
MOST OF US CAN ONLY FOCUS ON OUR OWN HANDS
AND YET, THIS MAN
OUR ANALYSIS IS USUALLY WAY OFF THE MARK ALL OVER THE PLACE!
AT THE BEST!
ALL WE THINK ABOUT IS HOW TO WIN AGAINST OUR OPPONENTS
WE MAY AS WELL BE GUESSING
AS FOR GETTING INTO OUR OPPONENTS' HEADS...

HE USES PSYCHO-LOGICAL WARFARE ON THE OTHER SIDE ...!

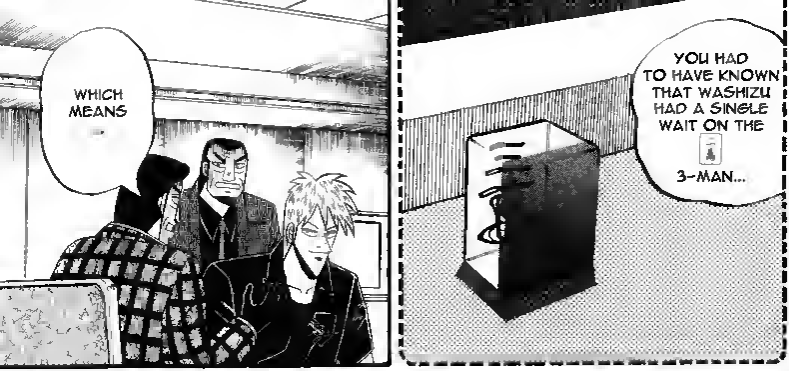


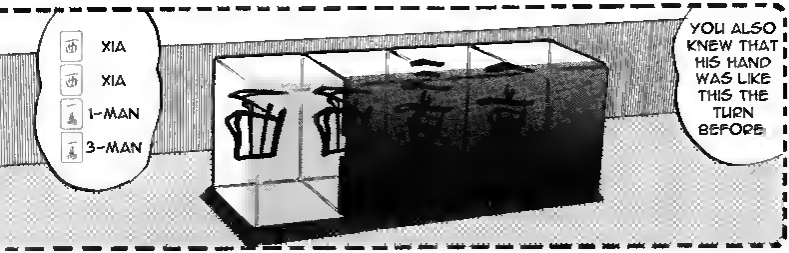
ざわ…

UM
CAN I ASK YOU ONE MORE THING, AKAGI?
EXCUSE ME, CAN I

ざわ…
ざわ…

WELL... AT LEAST THAT YOU WERE CONFIDENT, ANYWAY
I GET HOW YOU KNEW ABOUT THE XIAS
IT'S NOT MUCH
AH, NO...
SOMETHING ELSE?
I GET THAT MUCH, AT LEAST
YOU KNEW TWO OF THE TILES IN HIS HAND FOR SURE.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TILES IN WASHIZU'S HAND?
WITH AN ATAMA HANE
SINCE YOU CAUGHT HIM BY SUR-PRISE
IN THE END
YOU TOOK THE 3-MAN THAT SUZUKI WAS FEEDING TO WASHIZU
SINCE


WHICH MEANS
YOU HAD TO HAVE KNOWN THAT WASHIZU HAD A SINGLE WAIT ON THE 3-MAN...

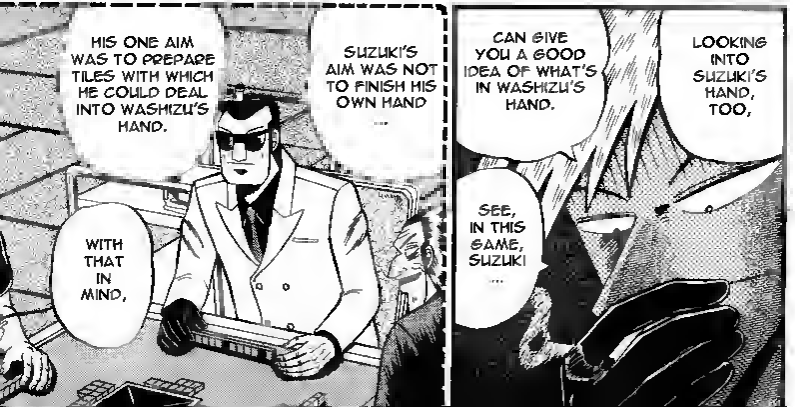

XIA
XIA
1-MAN
3-MAN
YOU ALSO KNEW THAT HIS HAND WAS LIKE THIS THE TURN BEFORE

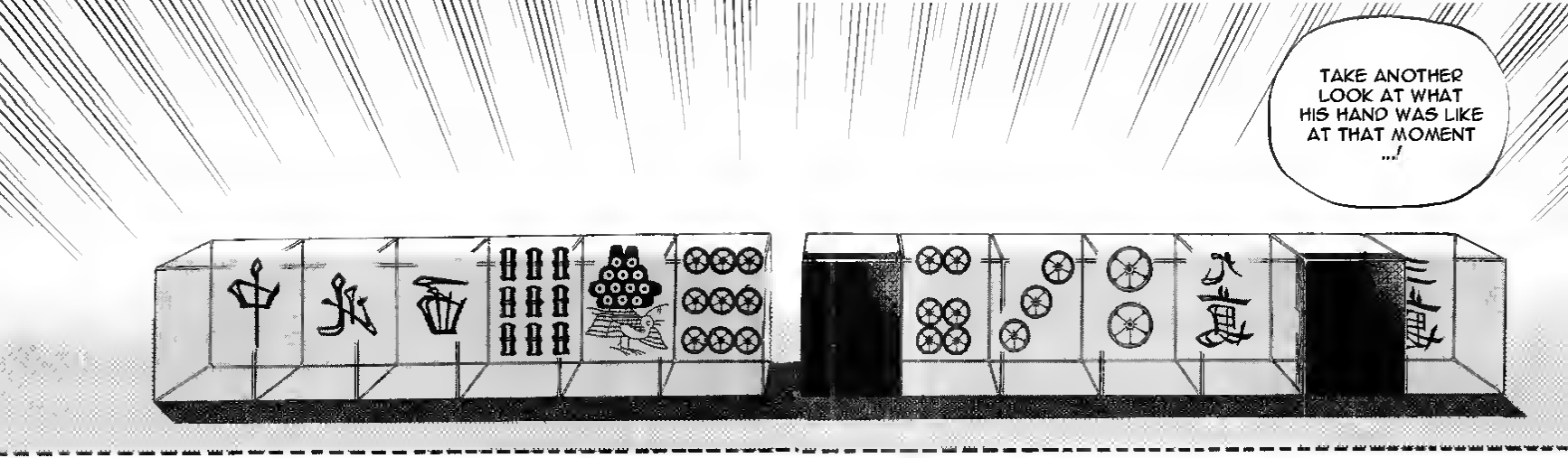
SO, HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL OF THAT?!
YOU HAD TO HAVE KNOWN ABOUT HIS CLOSED WAIT FOR THE 2-MAN!
HUH?
YOU MEAN IT'S NOT OBVIOUS...?
HM-HMM

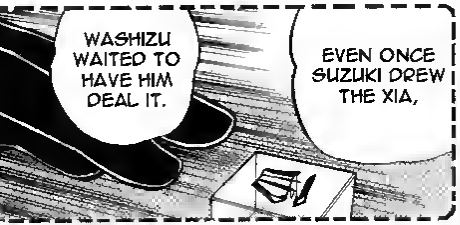
AND STILL HADN'T DEALT INTO WASHIZU'S HAND
HE HAD SO MANY PINZU TILES
IT'S JUST THAT SUZUKI
OH, NO...!
WHICH MEANS
A PINZU HON ITSU HAND
AND THAT MEANS THAT WASHIZU PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE
HOW DID YOU PIN DOWN THAT EXACT WAIT OUT OF ALL THE CHANTA WAITS...?
I'M WITH YOU UP TO THERE, BUT
YASU-OKA-SAN
WASHIZU DEFINITELY HAD SOME KIND OF CHANTA HAND...!
IT HAD TO BE CHANTA.!

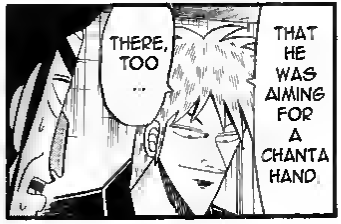
HUH ...?
THE ANSWER IS STARING YOU IN THE FACE.
IF YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT FAR ...

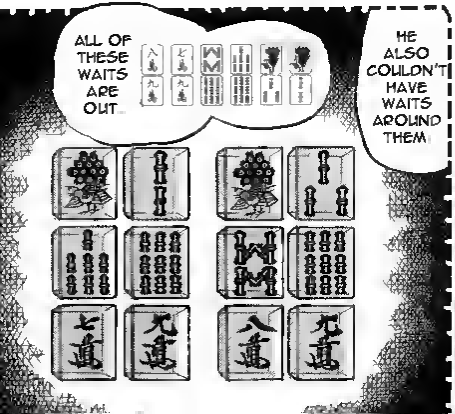
THERE'S ANOTHER WAY.
READING INTO WASHIZU'S HAND ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW...
YASUOKA-SAN... YOU'RE ALMOST THERE.
THAT GAME ...
?.....


WITH THAT IN MIND,
HIS ONE AIM WAS TO PREPARE TILES WITH WHICH HE COULD DEAL INTO WASHIZU'S HAND.
SUZUKI'S AIM WAS NOT TO FINISH HIS OWN HAND ...
SEE, IN THIS GAME, SUZUKI ...
CAN GIVE YOU A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT'S IN WASHIZU'S HAND.
LOOKING INTO SUZUKI'S HAND, TOO,

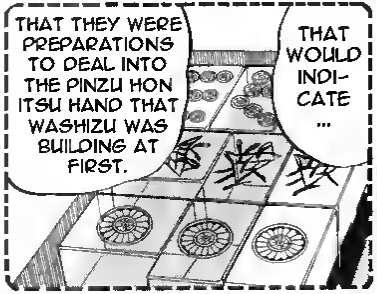

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT WHAT HIS HAND WAS LIKE AT THAT MOMENT ...!

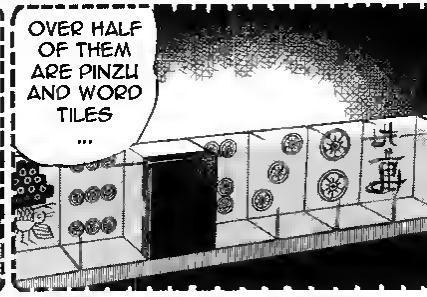

WASHIZU WAITED TO HAVE HIM DEAL IT.
EVEN ONCE SUZUKI DREW THE XIA,

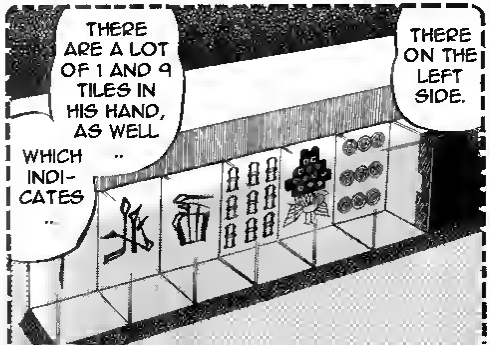

THERE, TOO ...
THAT HE WAS AIMING FOR A CHANTA HAND.


ALL OF THESE WAITS ARE OUT.
HE ALSO COULDN'T HAVE WAITS AROUND THEM.

SO HE COULDN'T BE WAITING ON THOSE TILES.
THE TERMINALS HE HAD WERE THE 1-SOU, 9-SOU, AND 9-MAN ...

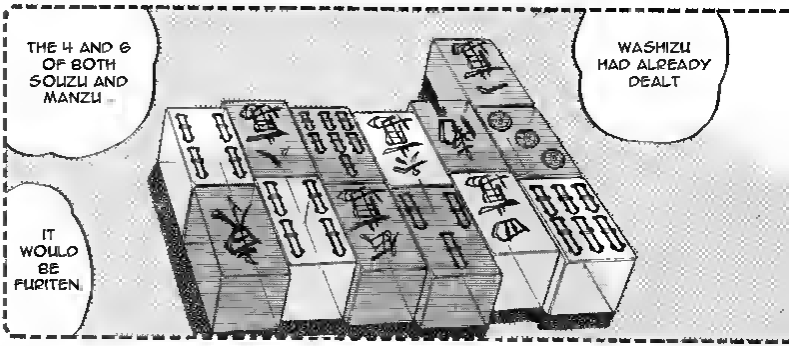

THAT THEY WERE PREPARATIONS TO DEAL INTO THE PINZU HON ITSU HAND THAT WASHIZU WAS BUILDING AT FIRST.
THAT WOULD INDI-CATE ...

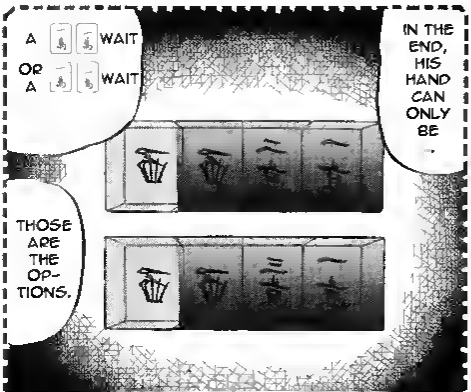

OVER HALF OF THEM ARE PINZU AND WORD TILES ...


THERE ARE A LOT OF 1 AND 9 TILES IN HIS HAND, AS WELL ..
WHICH INDI-CATES ...
THERE ON THE LEFT SIDE.

AS FOR THE OTHERS ...

NO WAY.
COULDN'T HE HAVE 2-SOU, 3-SOU, 7-SOU, OR 8-SOU WAITS?
THE REST OF THE POSSIBILITIES REVOLVE AROUND THE 1-MAN-
SINCE HE HAD TO BE GOING FOR CHANTA,
HOLD ON

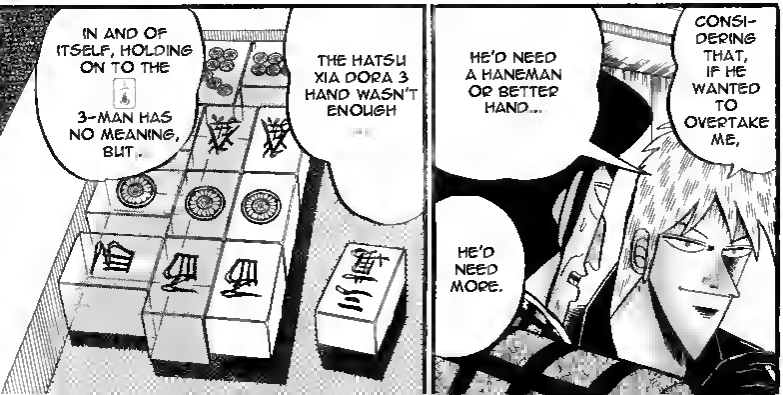

THE 4 AND 6 OF BOTH SOUZU AND MANZU
WASHIZU HAD ALREADY DEALT
IT WOULD BE FURITEN.

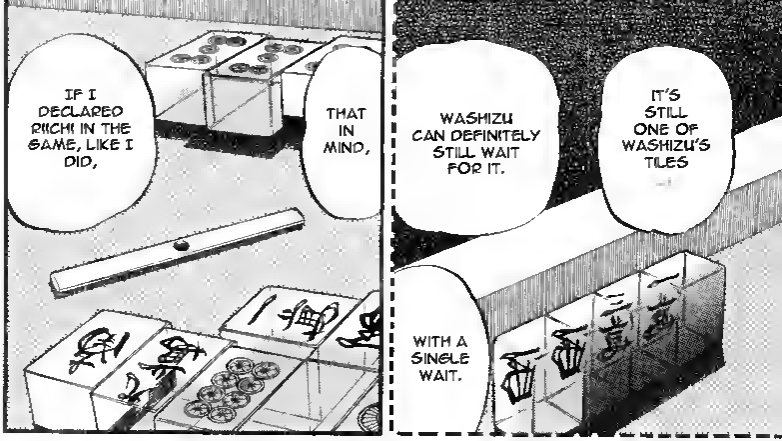

A WAIT
OR A WAIT
IN THE END, HIS HAND CAN ONLY BE
THOSE ARE THE OPTIONS.

HAVING A FURITEN TENPAI WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION
HE CALLED PON SO MANY TIMES,
SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE

AND SINCE THE OPAQUE 2-MAN WAS SAFELY IN MY HAND,
THE WAIT WAS RIGHT OUT.
WASHIZU'S WAIT HAD TO BE THE 1-MAN 3-MAN WAIT...
AND BECAUSE OF THAT

BECAUSE HE WAS IN THAT 1-3-MAN WAIT,
SUZUKI
THE SEEMINGLY USELESS TILE,
THE WAS STILL IN HIS HAND

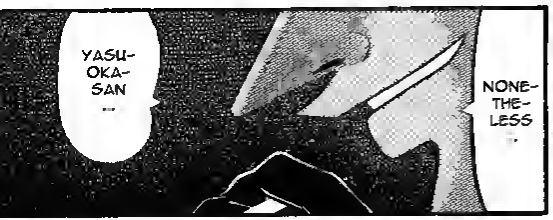

CONSIDERING THAT, IF HE WANTED TO OVERTAKE ME,
HE'D NEED A HANEMAN OR BETTER HAND...
HE'D NEED MORE.
THE HATSU XIA DORA 3 HAND WASN'T ENOUGH
IN AND OF ITSELF, HOLDING ON TO THE 3-MAN HAS NO MEANING, BUT.


IF I DECLARED RIICHI IN THE SAME, LIKE I DID,
THAT IN MIND,
WASHIZU CAN DEFINITELY STILL WAIT FOR IT.
IT'S STILL ONE OF WASHIZU'S TILES
WITH A SINGLE WAIT.

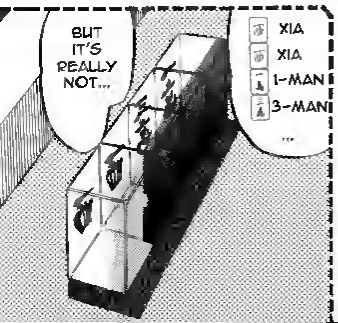
WOULD BE A MANGAN HAND
AND IF NOT,
ALL HE'D NEED TO OVER-TAKE ME THEN

AND YET
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE KEPT IT ...
HE COULD WIN OFF THAT 3-MAN AND STILL BREAK MANGAN
IF THE NEW DORA WAS IN HIS HAND,
IF HE GOT ANOTHER
HATSU
OR SOMETHING ELSE THAT WOULD GIVE HIM A KAN,

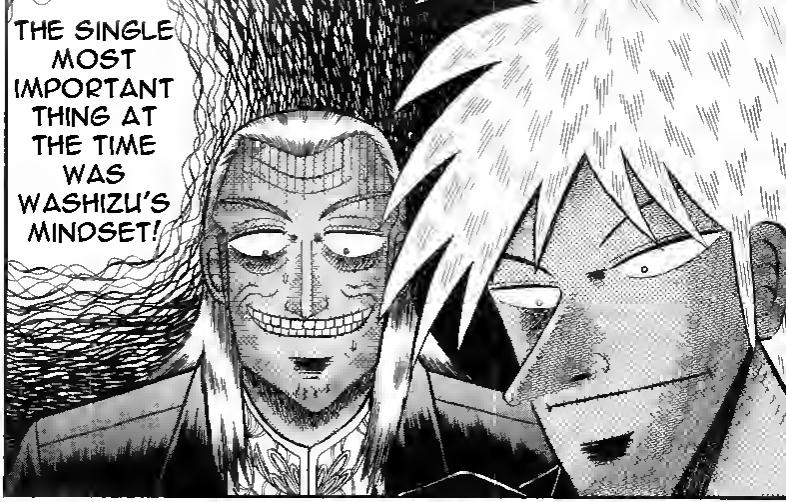
THAT PLAN OF HIS ...
ENDED UP COSTING HIM.

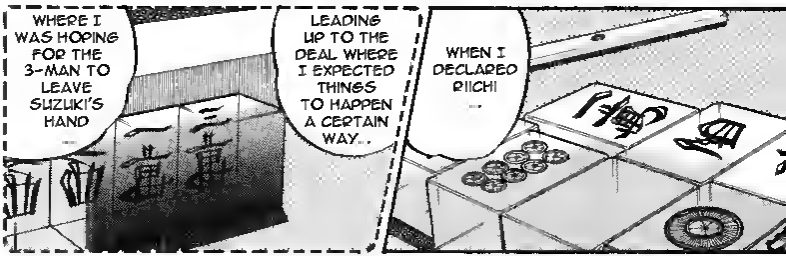

YASU-OKA-SAN ...
NONE-THE-LESS ...

AH ...!
HM-HM-HMM ...


BUT IT'S REALLY NOT...
XIA
XIA
1-MAN
3-MAN
...

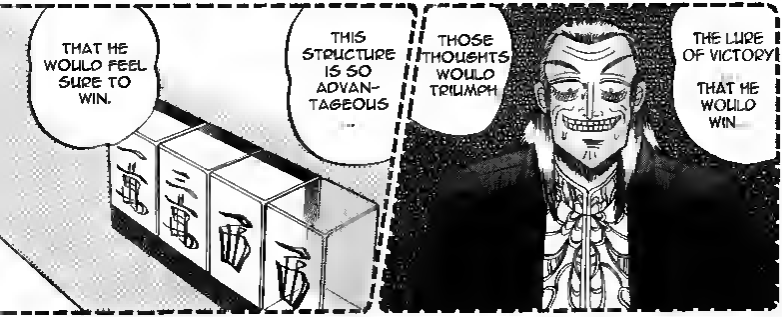
YOU MIGHT THINK THAT THE STRUC-TURE OF HIS HAND WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART...


THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING AT THE TIME WAS WASHIZU'S MINDSET!


WHERE I WAS HOPING FOR THE 3-MAN TO LEAVE SUZUKI'S HAND ...
LEADING UP TO THE DEAL WHERE I EXPECTED THINGS TO HAPPEN A CERTAIN WAY..
WHEN I DECLARED RIICHI ...

IT'S HARD TO TELL FOR SURE.
HE COULD HAVE GONE TOWARDS MY EXPECTATION OR STAYED WITH THE TENPAI HE HAD.. MAKE NO MISTAKE, HIS MINDSET WAS CRUCIAL TO MY PLAN.
DEPENDING ON HOW HE WAS THINKING AT THE TIME, HE COULD HAVE GONE EITHER WAY .

IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD BEGIN TO DOUBT ME
EVEN STILL...
INSTEAD...
QUITE DIFFICULT, EVEN AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME.
IT'S HARD TO GET A GOOD GRASP OF HIS MIND-SET...

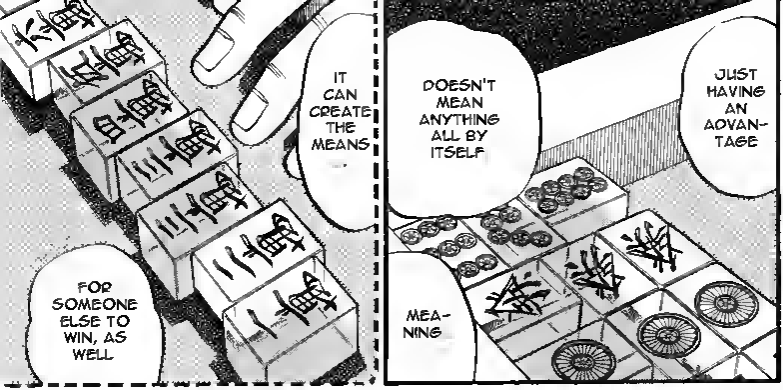

THAT HE WOULD FEEL SURE TO WIN.
THIS STRUCTURE IS SO ADVAN-TAGEOUS...
THOSE THOUGHTS WOULD TRIUMPH
THE LURE OF VICTORY!
THAT HE WOULD WIN...

?.....
BEGAN TO HUNGER FOR THE VICTORY HE FELT WAS RIGHT WITHIN HIS GRASP
WASHI-ZU..
AND BECAUSE HE FELT SO DOMINANT...

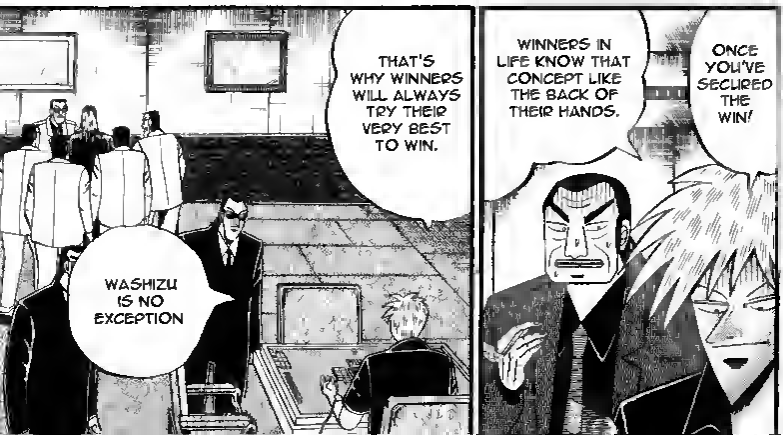
HE BECAME ASSURED THAT HE WOULD WIN.
BECAUSE WASHIZU HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WINNER IN HIS LONG LIFE,
SO TO SPEAK
YEAH.
HUNGER...?

HE KNOWS WHAT A SURE WIN FEELS LIKE AS OPPOSED TO A SIMPLE ADVANTAGE.

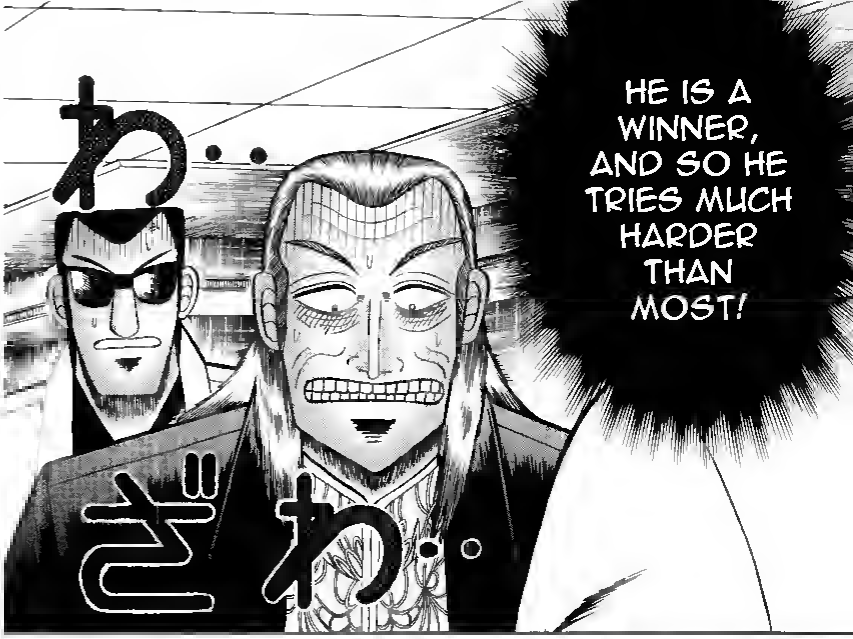
BUT COULD NOT BE MORE DIFFER-ENT.
AN ADVANTAGE AND VICTORY FEEL VERY SIMILAR...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
?....


JUST HAVING AN ADVAN-TAGE
DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING ALL BY ITSELF
MEA-NING
IT CAN CREATE THE MEANS
FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO WIN, AS WELL

WHETHER WINNING MEANS SELF-PROFIT,
OR SAFETY FROM DEFEAT,
IT CAN ONLY BE 100% CERTAIN


ONCE YOU'VE SECURED THE WIN!
WINNERS IN LIFE KNOW THAT CONCEPT LIKE THE BACK OF THEIR HANDS.
THAT'S WHY WINNERS WILL ALWAYS TRY THEIR VERY BEST TO WIN.
WASHIZU IS NO EXCEPTION

ざわ‥
ざわ‥


ざわ‥
ざわ。
HE IS A WINNER, AND SO HE TRIES MUCH HARDER THAN MOST!

SHOWING RESTRAINT CAN SOMETIMES BE BENIFICIAL ..!
BUILT AN UNSHAKABLE EMPIRE IN THIS FINE LAND
OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO STEP DOWN?
DON'T BE STUPID
IF YOU QUIT NOW, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE LOST ABOUT 100 MILLION

IT SEEMS TO ME ..
I GET THIS HUGE DEMONIC VIBE FROM HIM ..!
HIS MERE APPEARANCE SHAKES ME TO THE CORE.
THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY, THAT MAN ..
WASHI-ZU-SAMA
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
GO INTO THE THIRD ROUND, OR END IT HERE ..?

WASHIZU-SAMA..
.....
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO SIMPLY ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN?!
AND IF I LOSE, I MUST LEAVE JAPAN FOR GOOD!
THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN ...!
I SHALL NEVER ALLOW IT ...

CHAPTER 94 - PREMONITION

第94話 予感

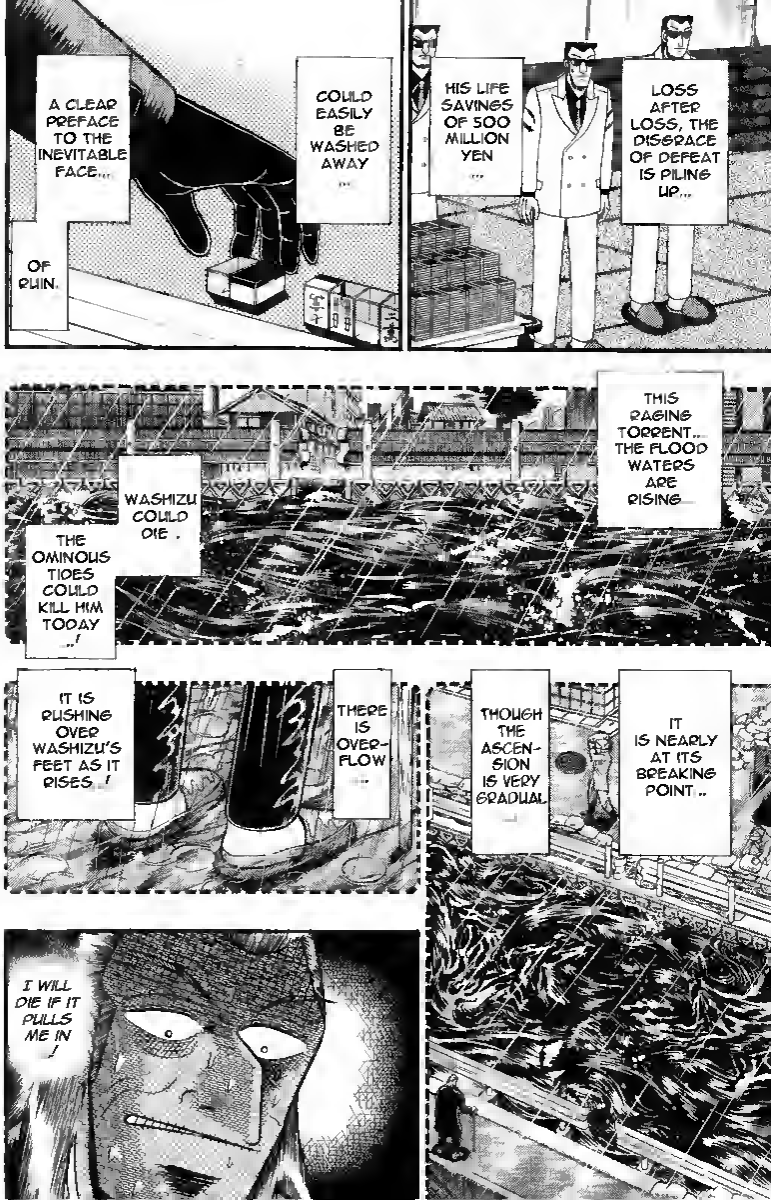
AKAGI
VS
WASHIZU
THIRD
MATCH

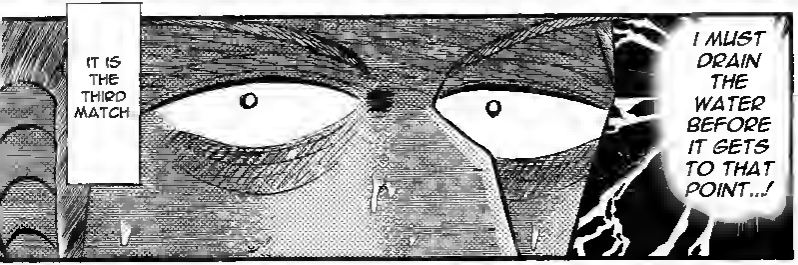
OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THESE TWO...
DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND MATCHES
WASHIZU FELL BEHIND AKAGI IN SCORE ...!
HE MUST NOT LOSE ANY MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAS...!
HE MUST WIPE AWAY THAT DISGRACE OF A POINT DIFFERENCE!
IN THIS THIRD MATCH, HE BADLY WANTS TO WIN!

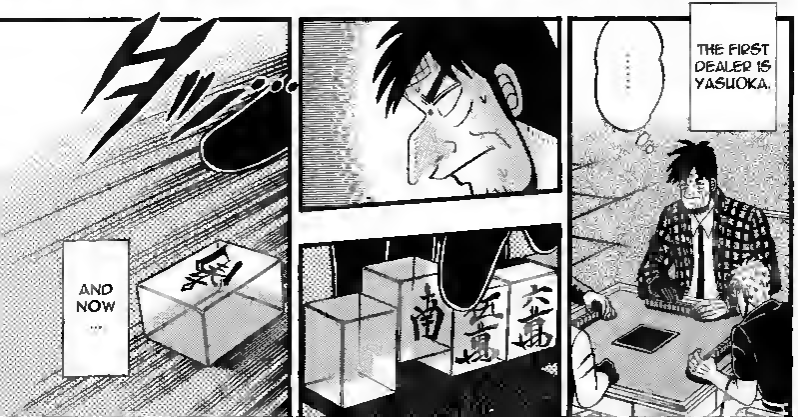
WASHIZU'S EMPERIAL PRIDE WILL NOT ALLOW HIM TO LOSE ...!
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...

GRADUALLY, FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY ARE STARTING TO SEEP INTO THEIR MINDS
IN OTHER WORDS ...
BE-SIDES ...

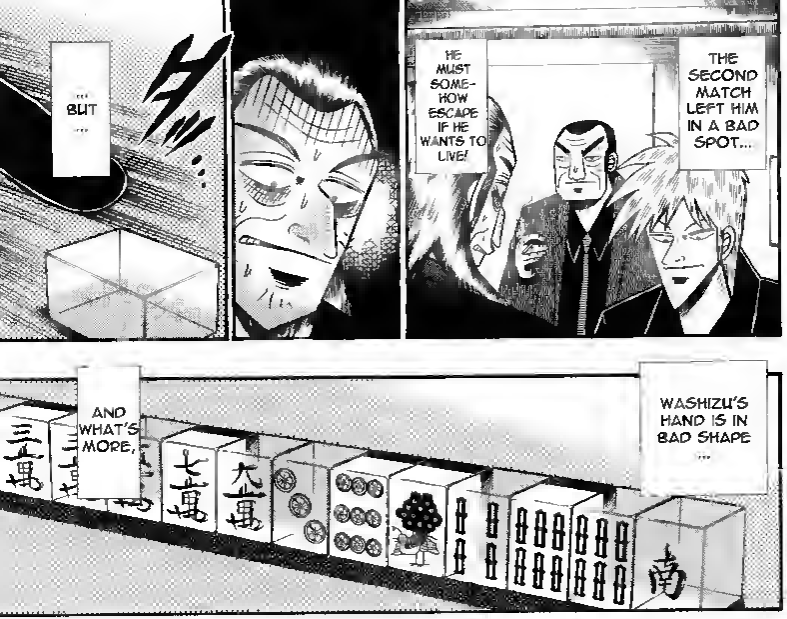
A TOTAL OF 118.5 MILLION YEN!
WASHIZU HAS LOST MUCH OF HIS MONEY OVER THE PREVIOUS TWO ROUNDS ...
THAT WEIGHT IS CLOSING IN ON THEM!
THIS GAMBLE'S INCREDIBLE YEN-TO-CC RATE...


A CLEAR PREFACE TO THE INEVITABLE FACE...
OF RUIN.
COULD EASILY BE WASHED AWAY ...
HIS LIFE SAVINGS OF 500 MILLION YEN ...
LOSS AFTER LOSS, THE DISGRACE OF DEFEAT IS PILING UP...
THIS RAGING TORRENT... THE FLOOD WATERS ARE RISING...
WASHIZU COULD DIE.
THE OMINOUS TIDES COULD KILL HIM TODAY ...!
IT IS RUSHING OVER WASHIZU'S FEET AS IT RISES...!
THERE IS OVER-FLOW ...
THOUGH THE ASCEN-SION IS VERY GRADUAL ...
IT IS NEARLY AT ITS BREAKING POINT..
I WILL DIE IF IT PULLS ME IN !

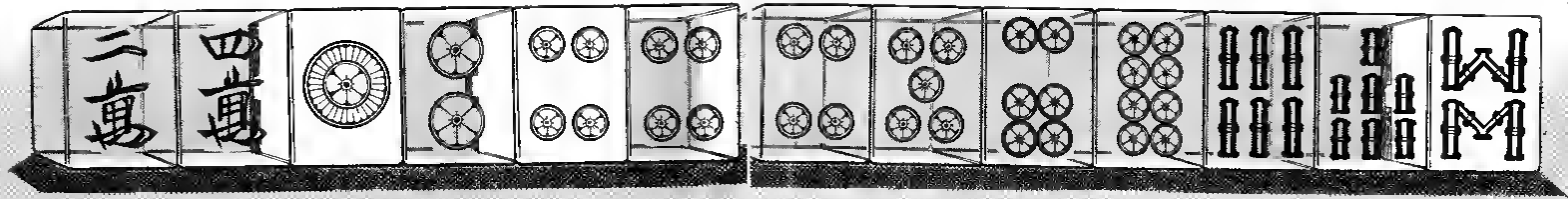

IT IS THE THIRD MATCH
I MUST DRAIN THE WATER BEFORE IT GETS TO THAT POINT..!

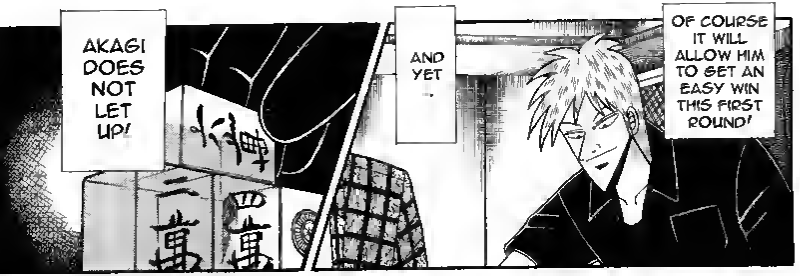

AND NOW ...
南
THE FIRST DEALER IS YASUOKA.
.....

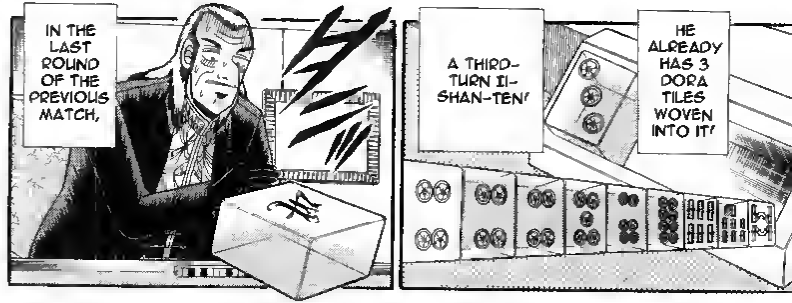
IT HAS BEGUN ...!
THE DEFINING THIRD MATCH!!
IN THIS EAST FIRST ROUND ...
WASHIZU WILL TRY TO...
SOME-HOW ...
REVERSE THE FLOW OF THE GAME!

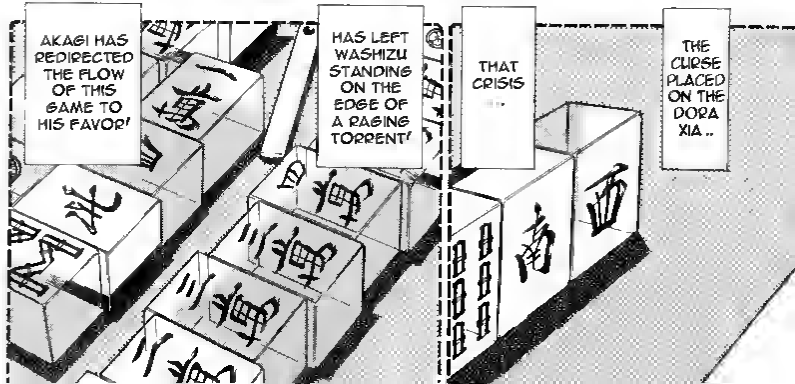

... BUT ...
HE MUST SOME-HOW ESCAPE IF HE WANTS TO LIVE!
THE SECOND MATCH LEFT HIM IN A BAD SPOT...
AND WHAT'S MORE,
WASHIZU'S HAND IS IN BAD SHAPE ...
FALLING INTO ARREARS ... AT HIS WIT'S END!
HE IS CAUGHT UP IN A WHIRL-POOL, AND SINKING FAST!
HIS DRAWS ARE USELESS ...!
IN STARK CON-TRAST ...

AKAGI'S HAND IS LOOKING GOOD!

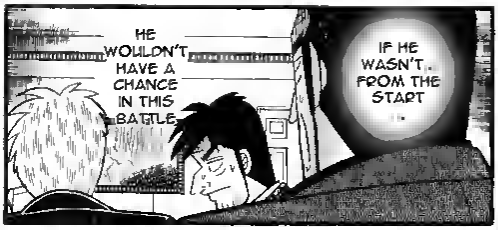






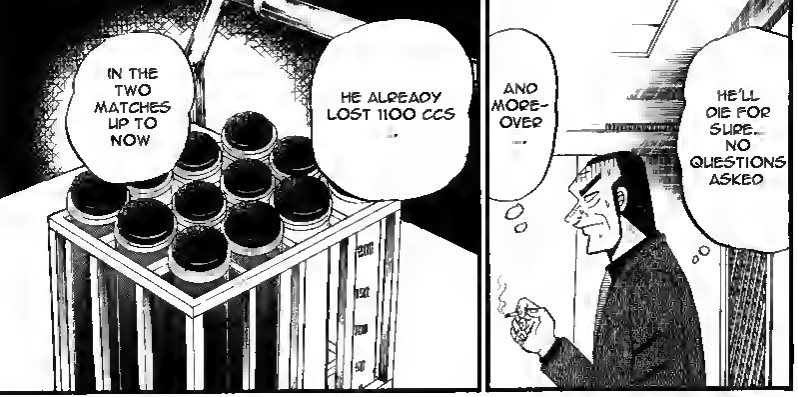

AKAGI HAS REDIRECTED THE FLOW OF THIS GAME TO HIS FAVOR!
HAS LEFT WASHIZU STANDING ON THE EDGE OF A RAGING TORRENT!
THAT CRISIS ...
THE CURSE PLACED ON THE DORA XIA ..

HE IS FAR BEYOND THAT CASUAL PLAY!

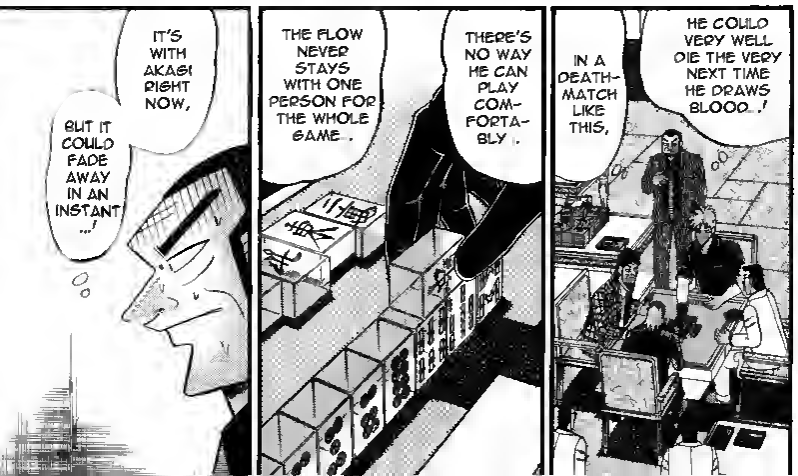

HE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE IN THIS BATTLE.
IF HE WASN'T, FROM THE START...

THAT'S RIGHT...!

WHERE HE RANKS UNDER WASHIZU, EVEN ONCE.
IF IT COMES TO THE POINT...

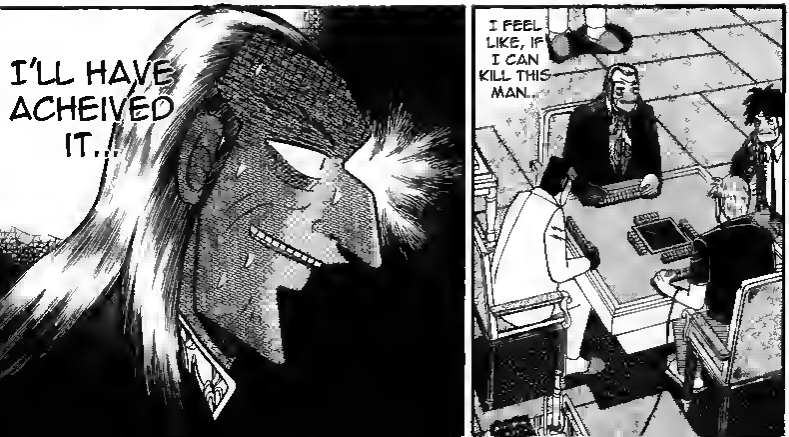

IN THE TWO MATCHES UP TO NOW
HE ALREADY LOST 1100 CCS
AND MORE-OVER
HE'LL DIE FOR SURE. NO QUESTIONS ASKED

WITH THAT IN MIND
THAT'S BUT A STEP AWAY FROM THE LETHAL LIMIT OF 2000 CCS.
HE'LL HAVE HAD 1900 CCS DRAWN, ALL TOTALLED
THAT MEANS THAT IF WASHIZU LANDS A MANGAN HAND OFF OF HIM...


IT'S WITH AKAGI RIGHT NOW,
BUT IT COULD FADE AWAY IN AN INSTANT...!
THE FLOW NEVER STAYS WITH ONE PERSON FOR THE WHOLE GAME.
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN PLAY COM-FORTA-BLY.
IN A DEATH-MATCH LIKE THIS,
HE COULD VERY WELL DIE THE VERY NEXT TIME HE DRAWS BLOOD...!

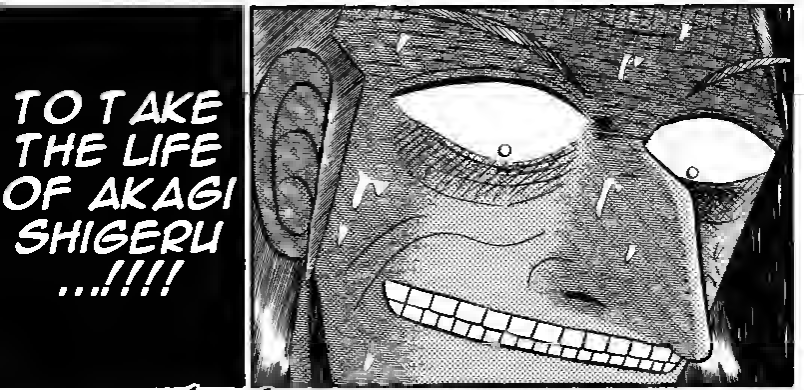
EVERY MOMENT, HE IS IN RISK OF AN UNTIMELY DEATH...!

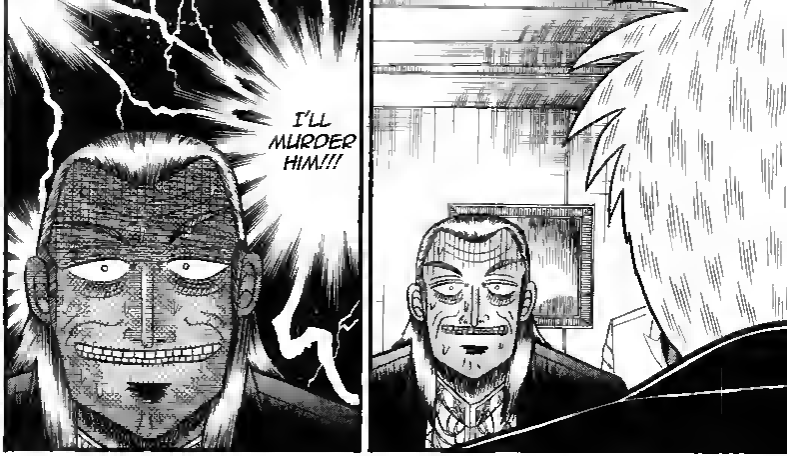
WHAT AN AMAZING FEELING JUST CAME OVER ME ...!


I'LL HAVE ACHEIVED IT...
I FEEL LIKE, IF I CAN KILL THIS MAN...

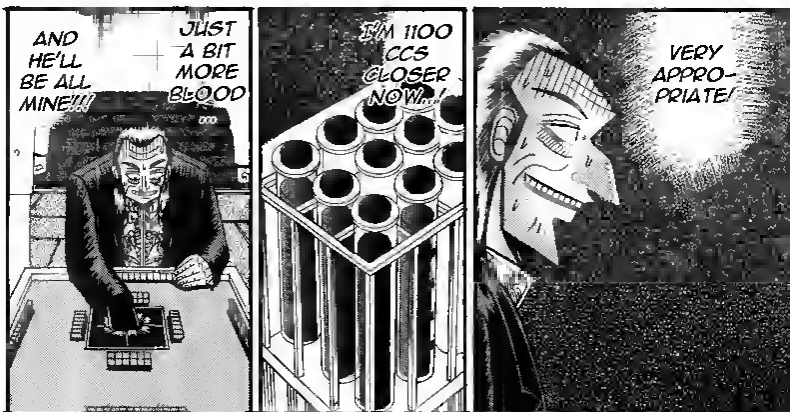
THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY 75 YEARS ON THIS PLANET...
THE HIGH POINT OF MY WHOLE LIFE...!

IT FEELS AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN DESTINED FROM THE DAY I WAS BORN
THIS MAN ...


TO TAKE THE LIFE OF AKAGI SHIGERU ...!!!!


I'LL MURDER HIM!!!

IT WOULD BE A FITTING END TO MY TIME IN JAPAN!
YES ...
I SHALL KILL THAT MAN ...


AND HE'LL BE ALL MINE!!!
JUST A BIT MORE BLOOD
I'M 1100 CCS CLOSER NOW..!
VERY APPRO-PRIATE!

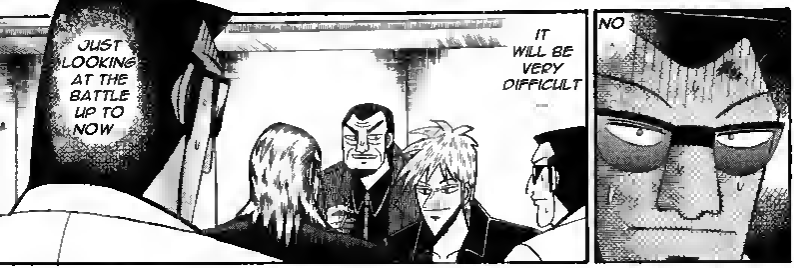
I WANT TO OVER-TAKE HIM IN RANK
I CAN DO IT
GN...
BUT RATHER
BUT I DON'T WANT TO WIN BY THE RATE ALONE...
IT HAS MADE IT FAR EASIER FOR ME TO BEAT HIM DOWN!
THIS BLOOD RATE HAS PROVEN EFFECTIVE
THAT'S A SURE THING...!
THAT WILL PROVE HOW SUPERIOR I AM TO HIM...
THROUGH MY OWN ABILITY AND STRA-TEGY!
BUT THEN...

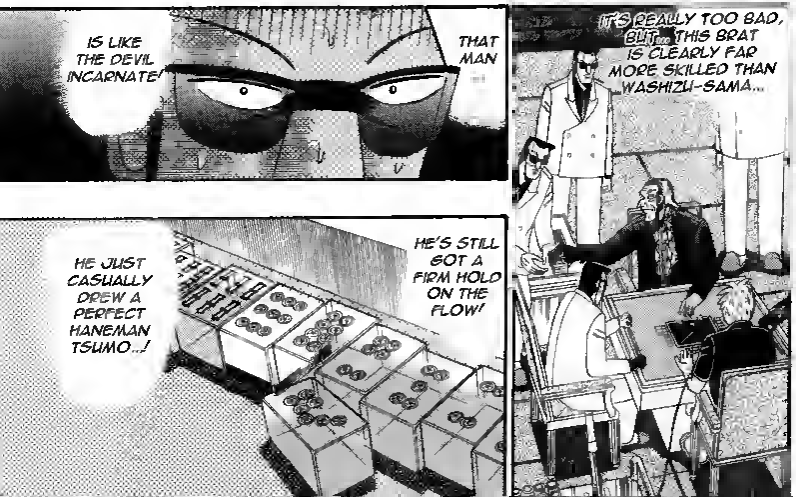
AKAGI MAKES THE FIRST STRIKE!
ON THE EIGHTH TURN ...
ハァ ハァ...
TSUMO.

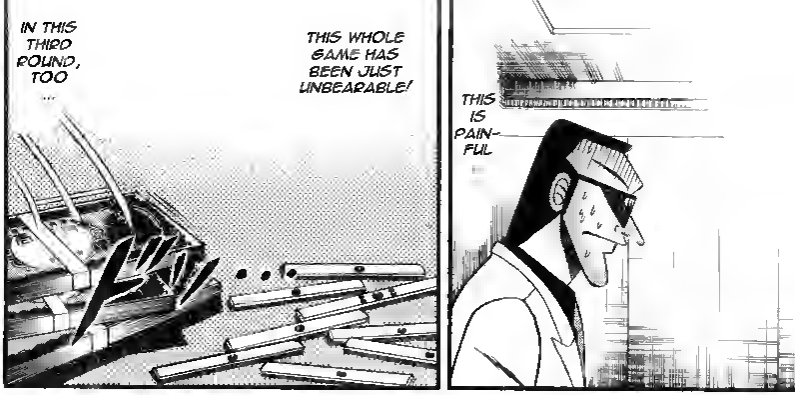
HE EASILY THROWS THE FIRST BLOW!!
TSUMO, ITSU, DORA 3 ... HANEMAN!!
HE WAS THE FIRST!
GRH...
WHEN THE FLOW IS TURNED IN YOUR FAVOR!
THE KIND OF HAND THAT CAN ONLY BE SEEN...
HE CREATED THE BEST POSSIBLE SHAPE...
BY JUST GETTING RID OF THE TILES HE DIDN'T NEED!
THERE WERE NO WASTED DRAWS...

GRR ...
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
IT'S JUST THE EAST FIRST ROUND ...
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

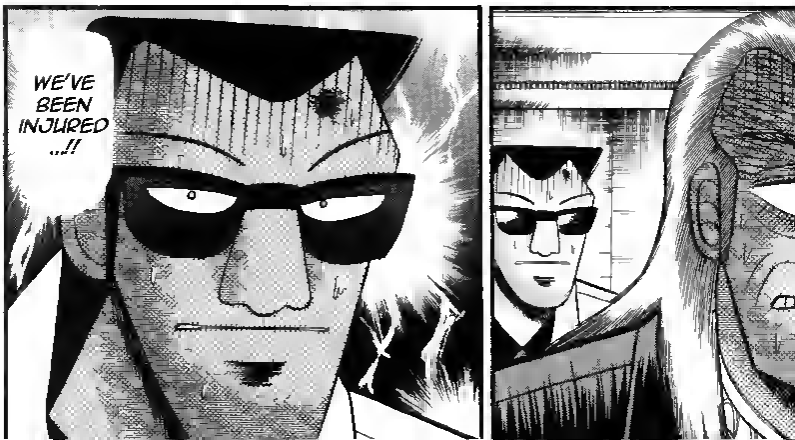
.....


JUST LOOKING AT THE BATTLE UP TO NOW
IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT...
NO


IS LIKE THE DEVIL INCARNATE!
THAT MAN
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD, BUT... THIS BRAT IS CLEARLY FAR MORE SKILLED THAN WASHIZU-SAMA...
HE JUST CASUALLY DREW A PERFECT HANEMAN TSUMO...!
HE'S STILL GOT A FIRM HOLD ON THE FLOW!


IN THIS THIRD ROUND, TOO ...
THIS WHOLE GAME HAS BEEN JUST UNBEARABLE!
THIS IS PAIN-FUL

ALL RIGHT

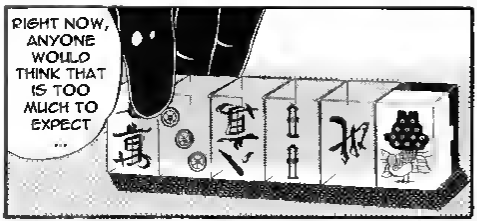

WE'VE BEEN INJURED ...!!

CHAPTER 95 - LIGHTNING

第95話雷光

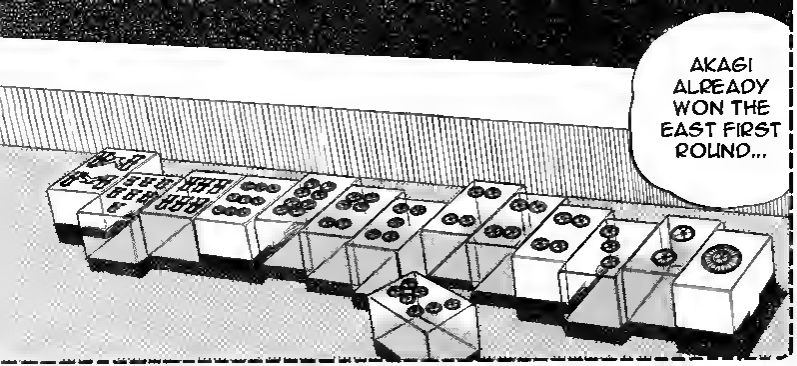
WASHIZU IS THE DEALER.
ゴ"ト…
EAST 2ND ROUND
ゴ"ト…
ゴ"ト…
……
Ooo
THIS DEALER ROUND COULD GO BY QUICKLY IF YOU'RE NOT CARE-FUL..
WASHIZU-SAMA... THIS TURN AS DEALER IS VERY IMPORTANT...!

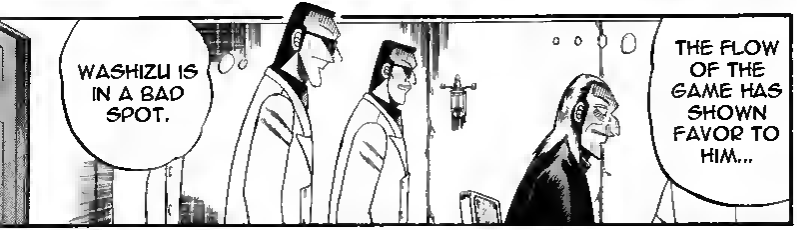
AKAGI IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE FAVORED IN THIS MATCH, TOO..
I'D GIVE IT ABOUT A 99% CHANCE.
SO THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO
IS STOP AKAGI FROM CHANGING THE WINDS AROUND!
AND THERE-FORE,
OUR MAIN PRIORITY AT THE MOMENT
IS TO MAKE ANY KIND OF WINNING HAND, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY 1500 OR 2000 POINTS!
BY ANY MEANS NE-CES-SARY!
WE SIMPLY HAVE TO!
WE CAN'T JUST MESS AROUND ANY MORE!
BUT STILL . . .


RIGHT NOW, ANYONE WOULD THINK THAT IS TOO MUCH TO EXPECT ...

CAN HE REALLY DO EVEN THAT MUCH?
THINKING ABOUT IT JUST A BIT MORE ...

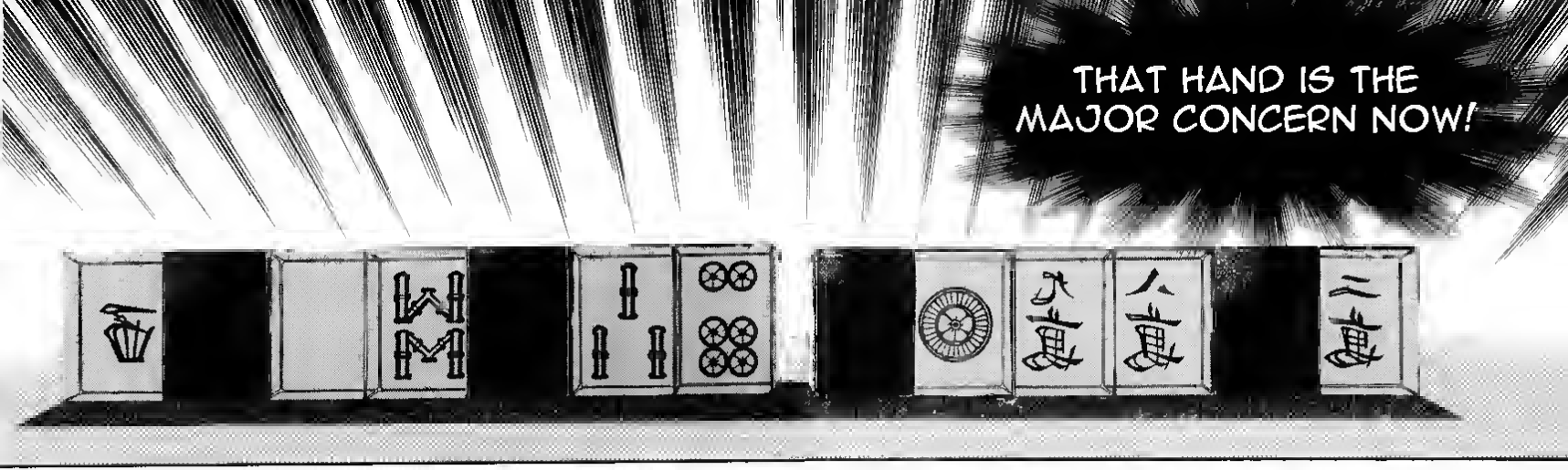
IT'S A NAIVE THING TO WISH FOR ...


AKAGI ALREADY WON THE EAST FIRST ROUND...


WASHIZU IS IN A BAD SPOT.
THE FLOW OF THE GAME HAS SHOWN FAVOR TO HIM...

WHAT MAKES US THINK THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT NOW?
WE COULDN'T DO IT IN THE EAST FIRST ROUND...
WE CAN'T COUNT ON A MIR-ACLE.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS...
HOW-EVER ...
COULD THIS BE WASHIZU'S MAGIC TOUCH ...?

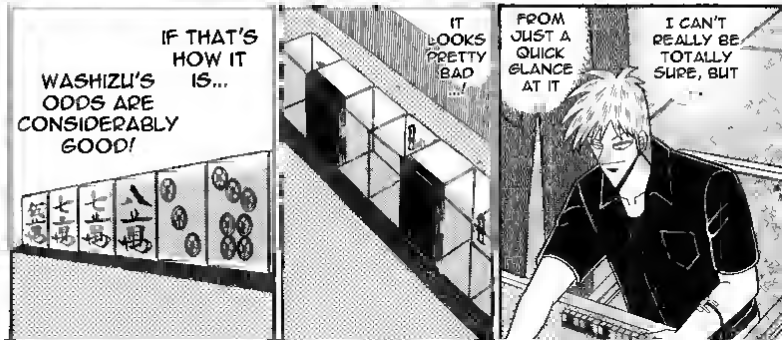
A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY APPEARS!
THE ONLY THING LEFT...
WITH THIS, HE MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO RETURN FIRE!
IS AKAGI'S HAND!
THE POTENTIAL FOR A TAN YAO, PINFU, SAN SHOKU HAND CAN BE SEEN IN IT!
WHILE IT DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE COMPLETED SET...
NOT BAD...!
A WELL-SHAPED SAN SHAN TEN...!

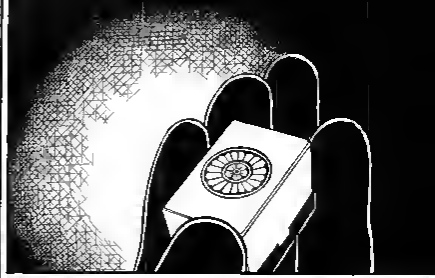

THAT HAND IS THE MAJOR CONCERN NOW!

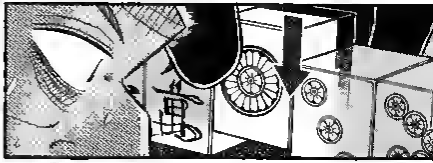
THERE'S STILL SOME HOPE LEFT!
.....

IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING JUST YET...
WELL...

THERE'S 4 OPAQUE TILES


WASHIZU'S ODDS ARE CONSIDERABLY GOOD!
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
IT LOOKS PRETTY BAD...
FROM JUST A QUICK GLANCE AT IT
I CAN'T REALLY BE TOTALLY SURE, BUT...





BUT STILL . MY BOSS..

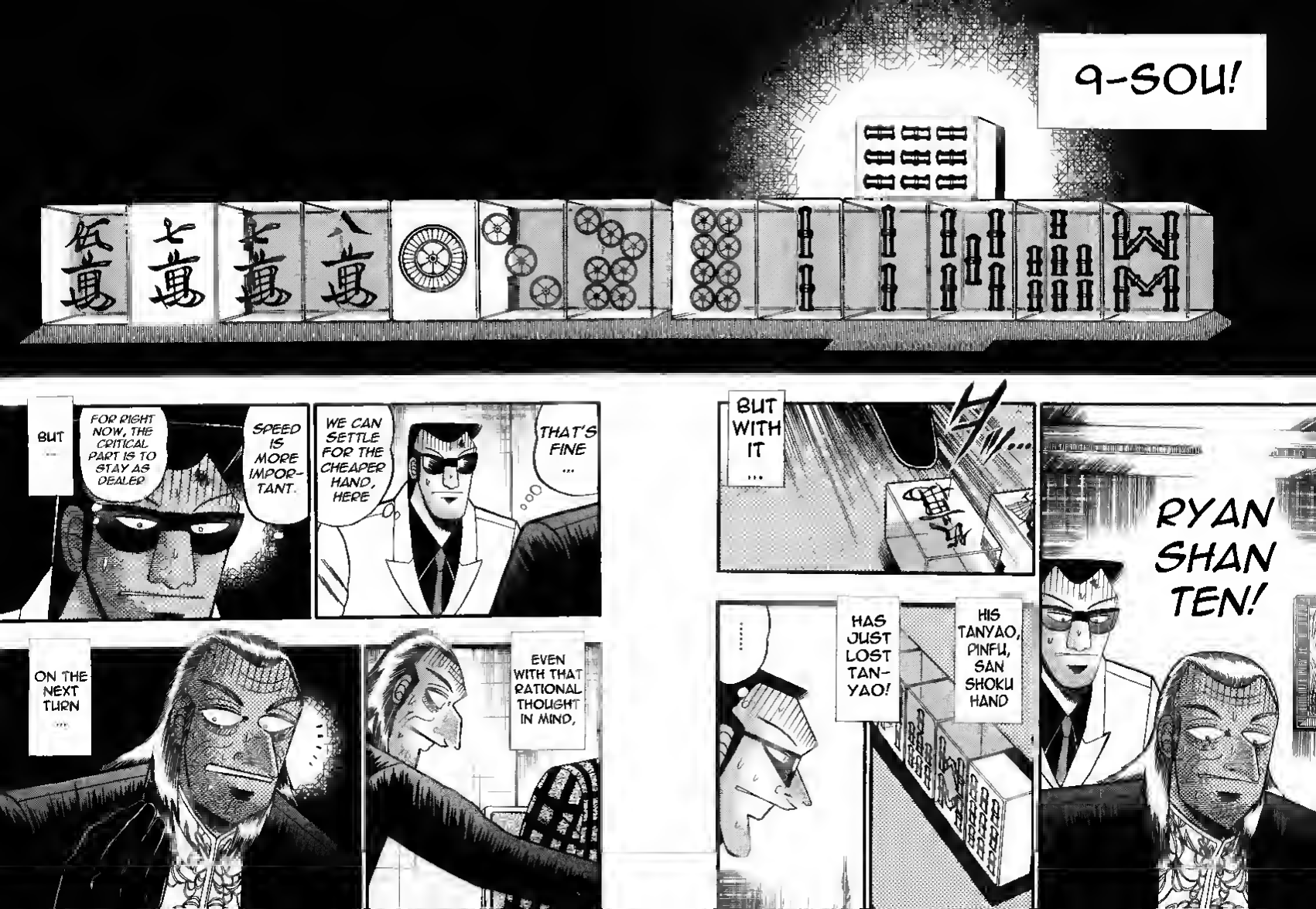
THE AVERAGE PERSON CAN'T SO MUCH AS APPROACH HIS LEVEL!
HE CAN'T BE TOUCHED ...

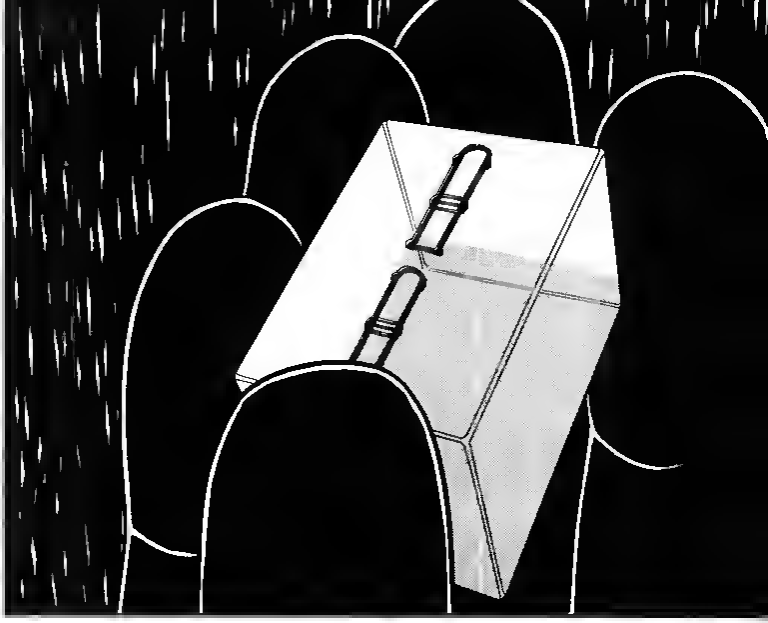
ARE JUST STU-PEN-DOUS!
MY BOSS'S NATURAL LUCK AND CAPACITY...

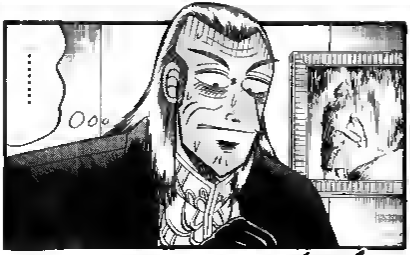
OR HOW MUCH HE'S BACKED INTO A CORNER!
NO MATTER HOW HARD HE NEEDS TO STRUGGLE ...
HE ALWAYS MAKES IT OUT OF WHATEVER HE'S THROWN INTO!
SOME-HOW OR ANO-THER ...
IT'S THE SAME THING WITH THE VAMPIRIC MURDER CASES!
HE ALWAYS ESCAPES DANGER IN SOME WAY!
HE MADE IT OUT ALIVE!
HE WAS ABLE TO COMMIT THOSE CRIMES AND BE NO WORSE FOR WEAR!
IN THE END ...
THOUGH HE MAY HAVE LOST A SIZEABLE PART OF HIS FORTUNE,

HE ALWAYS HAS, AND ALWAYS WILL MAKE IT OUT ALIVE!
THAT'S JUST HOW MY BOSS HAS ALWAYS LIVED HIS LIFE!
THERE IS DEFINITELY STILL A CHANCE!
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT ...
WASHIZU COMES FIRST, HANDS DOWN!
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PURE LUCK,
IS AKAGI NO/ DOUBT ABOUT THAT.
TRUE, THE ONE WITH MORE MAHJONG SKILL...

IS HIS GOD-GIVEN LUCK ...
ALL HE NEEDS TO USE
IN THAT SENSE
TO KILL THAT MAN, AKAGI SHIGERU ..!
CER-TAINLY ..
WITH THIS DRAW ..
WASHIZU GETS ANOTHER STEP CLOSER TO TENPAI
ON THE VERY NEXT TURN,
AS IF CONFIR-MING YOSHI-OKA'S THOUGHTS


9-SOU!
BUT ...
FOR RIGHT NOW, THE CRITICAL PART IS TO STAY AS DEALER
SPEED IS MORE IMPOR-TANT.
WE CAN SETTLE FOR THE CHEAPER HAND, HERE
THAT'S FINE ...
ON THE NEXT TURN ...
EVEN WITH THAT RATIONAL THOUGHT IN MIND,
BUT WITH IT ...
HAS JUST LOST TAN-YAO!
HIS TANYAO, PINFU, SAN SHOKU HAND
.....
RYAN SHAN TEN!

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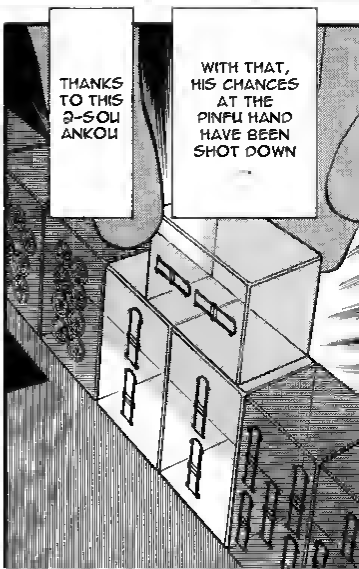
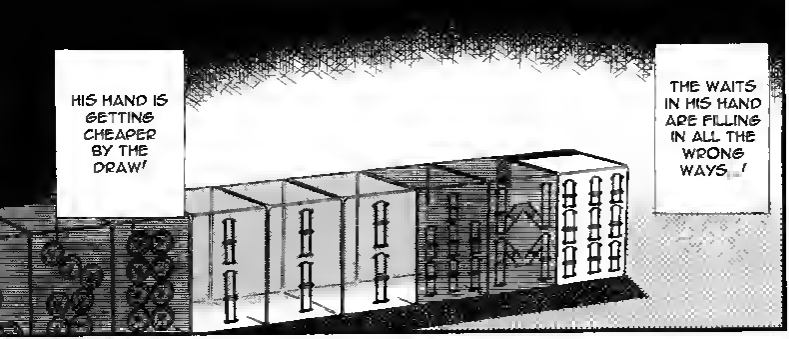
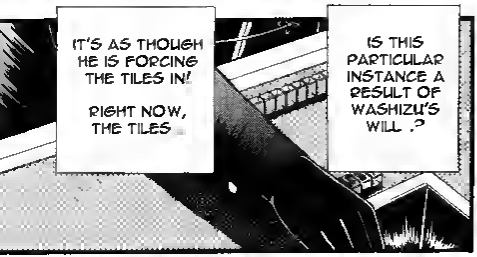

WITH THAT, HIS CHANCES AT THE PINFU HAND HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN
THANKS TO THIS 2-SOU ANKOU

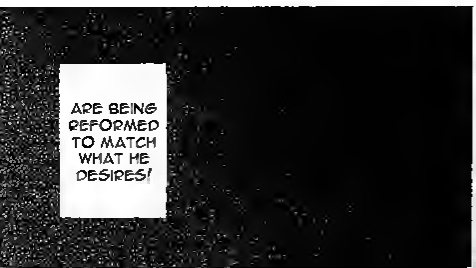
HIS HAND IS PROGRES-SING, TO BE SURE, BUT.


HIS HAND IS GETTING CHEAPER BY THE DRAW!
THE WAITS IN HIS HAND ARE FILLING IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS...!

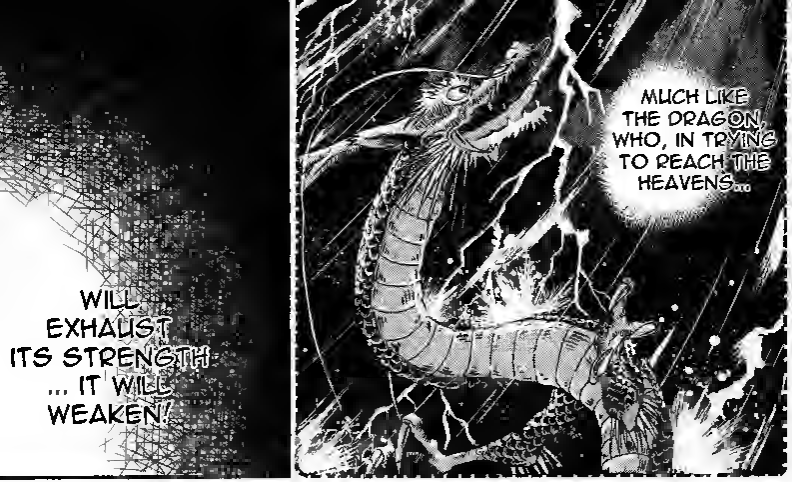
WASHIZU IS STILL IN A VERY ROUGH SPOT.
.....
THUS, IT WOULD SEEM.

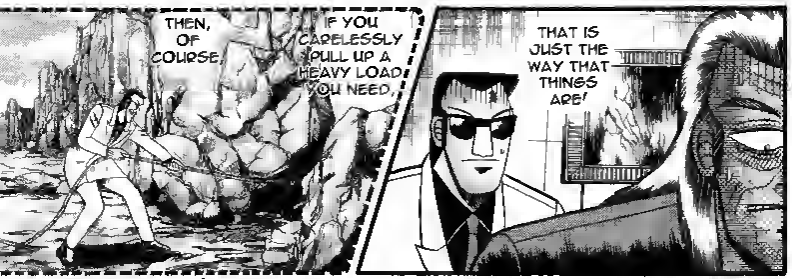

IT'S AS THOUGH HE IS FORCING THE TILES IN!
RIGHT NOW, THE TILES...
IS THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE A RESULT OF WASHIZU'S WILL...?

BUT...
USELESS DRAWS COME UP OFTEN AROUND THIS POINT.
IN A NORMAL GAME,


ARE BEING REFORMED TO MATCH WHAT HE DESIRES!

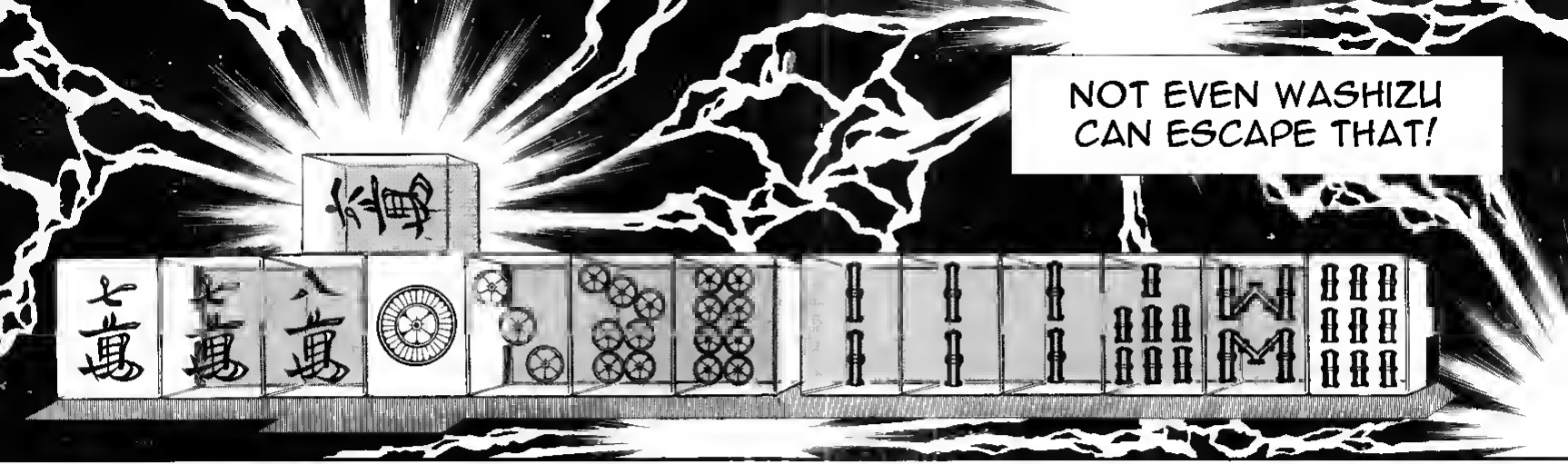
HE IS TRYING TO PUSH HIS WAY THROUGH!
のたうちながら昇るっ……！
FORCEFULLY ASCENDING THROUGH THE RAGING STORM...!
暴風雨濁黒の空を……！


MUCH LIKE THE DRAGON, WHO, IN TRYING TO REACH THE HEAVENS...
WILL EXHAUST ITS STRENGTH ... IT WILL WEAKEN!


THEN, OF COURSE,
IF YOU CARELESSLY PULL UP A HEAVY LOAD, YOU NEED...
THAT IS JUST THE WAY THAT THINGS ARE!

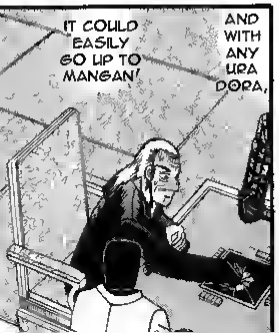
IN TRUTH ...

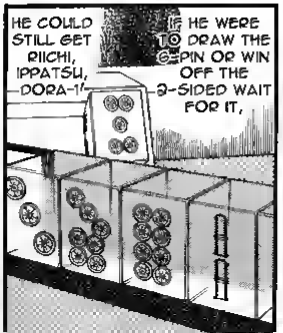
IT WILL UNAVOID-ABLY HAVE LOST MASS WHEN YOU FINISH!
IT WILL CHIP AWAY IN BITS AT A TIME


NOT EVEN WASHIZU CAN ESCAPE THAT!

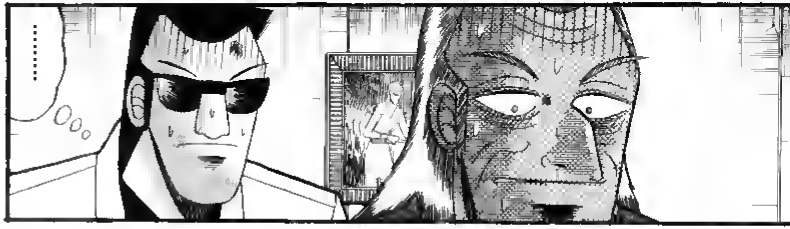
THAT'S FINE, TOO

OH, WELL.

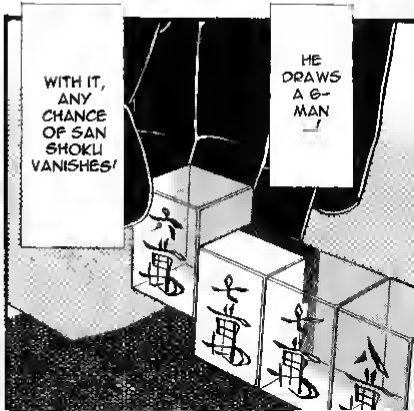

IT COULD EASILY GO UP TO MANGAN!
AND WITH ANY URA DORA,

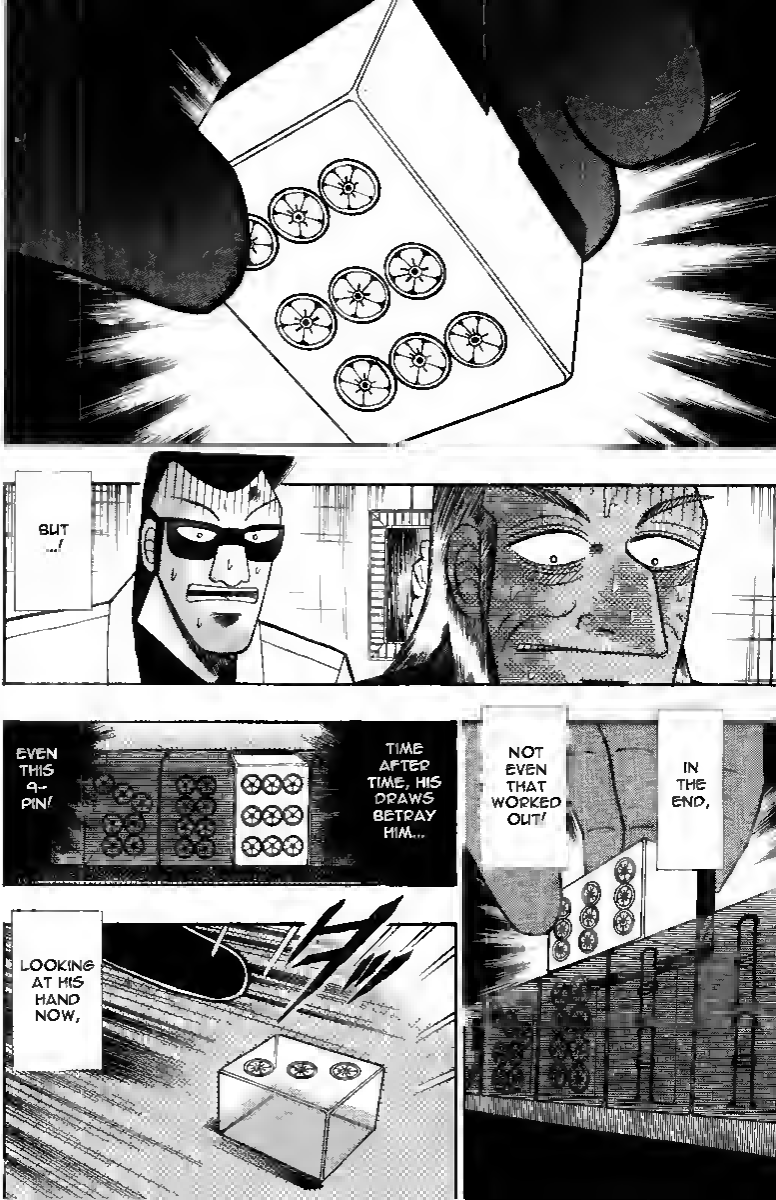

HE COULD STILL GET RIICHI, IPPATSU, DORA-1!
IF HE WERE TO DRAW THE 6-PIN OR WIN OFF THE 2-SIDED WAIT FOR IT,

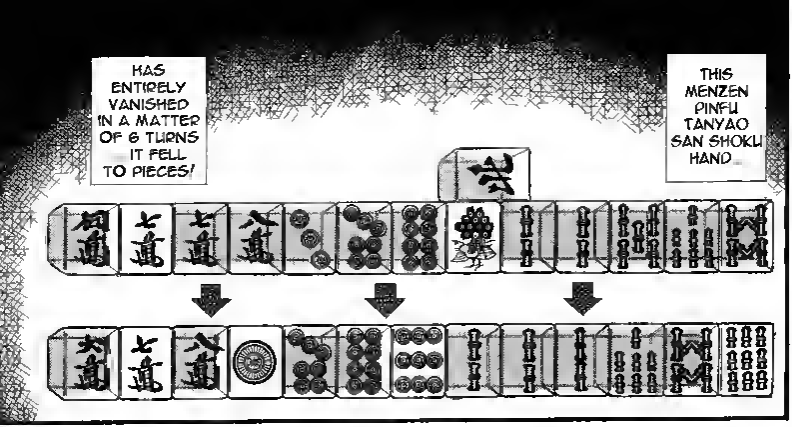
EVEN NOW,
THERE'S STILL A GOOD CHANCE


.....
Ooo

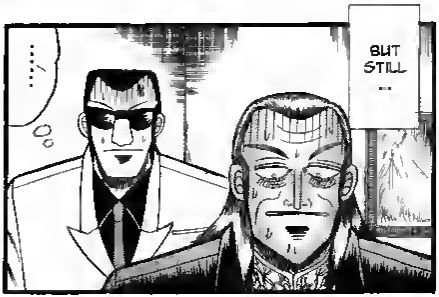
NOW IT'S JUST A TRASH HAND

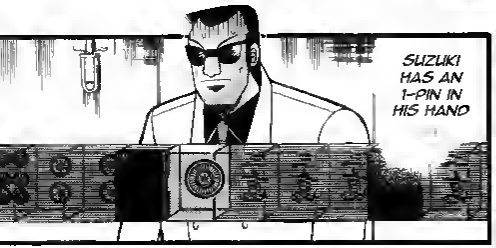

WITH IT, ANY CHANCE OF SAN SHOKU VANISHES!
HE DRAWS A 6-MAN!

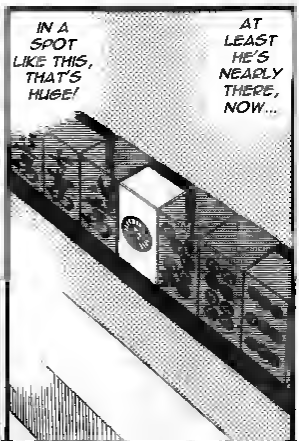

BUT ...!
EVEN THIS 9-PIN!
TIME AFTER TIME, HIS DRAWS BETRAY HIM...
NOT EVEN THAT WORKED OUT!
IN THE END,
LOOKING AT HIS HAND NOW,

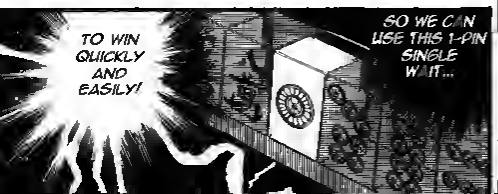

HAS ENTIRELY VANISHED IN A MATTER OF 6 TURNS ... IT FELL TO PIECES!
THIS MENZEN PINFU TANYAO SAN SHOKU HAND...

THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO BE!


.....
BUT STILL ...


SUZUKI HAS AN 1-PIN IN HIS HAND

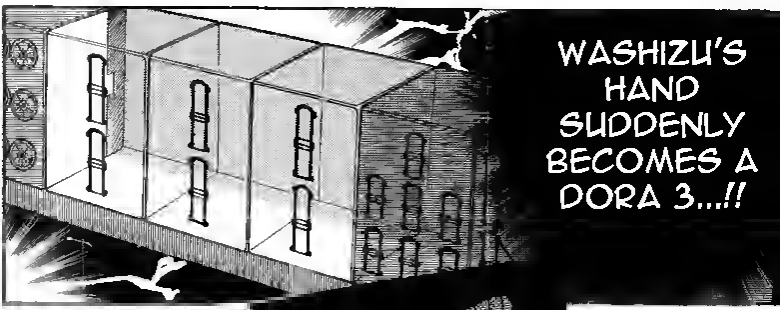

IN A SPOT LIKE THIS, THAT'S HUGE!
AT LEAST HE'S NEARLY THERE, NOW...


TO WIN QUICKLY AND EASILY!
SO WE CAN USE THIS 1-PIN SINGLE WAIT...

KAN.
THERE'S A 100% GUARANTEED WAY FOR HIM TO WIN!
AT THIS TIME,
THIS IS BECAUSE SUZUKI WAS CAPABLE OF CALLING KAN WITH HIS 3-MAN.
FOR JUST ONE MORE TURN.
WASHIZU DECIDES TO DELAY CALLING RIICHI
WELL...
WASHIZU CAN STILL CALL RIICHI ON THE VERY NEXT TURN
ONCE THE NEW DORA IS REVEALED FROM THE KAN,

THE CLOSED KAN ...
INDEED, EVERYONE IS THINKING SIMILARLY TO YOSHI-OKA.
WE CAN'T REALLY EXPECT MUCH FROM IT ...
AND THE NEW DORA SEEM ALMOST USE-LESS.
AND YET ...
A SUR-PRISING TURN OF EVENTS ...
STRIKES DOWN LIKE LIGHT-NING...!
SOMEHOW, THE NEW DORA INDICATOR REVEALS ITSELF AS...
?....
AN 1-SOU ...!!!

WHICH MEANS

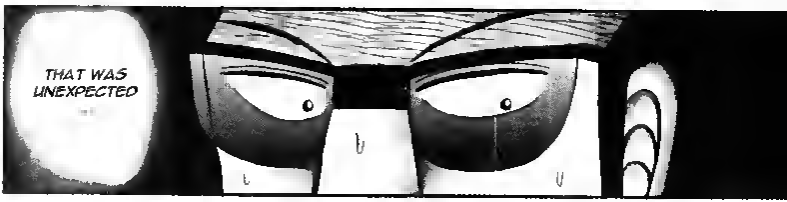

WASHIZU'S HAND SUDDENLY BECOMES A DORA 3...!!

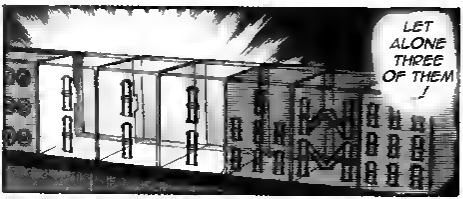
WHA-...?!

DORA 3!!
DORA 3!!!

CHAPTER 96 -
MONSTROUS LUCK
第96話剛運
WASHIZU JUST GOT A DORA 3 ...!!!!!

ざわ…
ざわ…
HEH-HEH-HEH…


THAT WAS UNEXPECTED


LET ALONE THREE OF THEM!

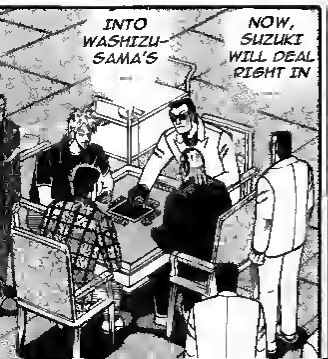
WHO COULD EVEN THINK OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS..? IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE COULD EVEN GET ONE OF THE DORA AT THIS POINT

I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THIS IN MY WILDEST DREAMS!
EVEN NOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT

SO
MY BOSS'S REAL POTENTIAL!
THIS IS...
AND IN THE EAST FIRST ROUND OF THIS MATCH, AKAGI SCORED A HANEMAN!
THE FIRST AND SECOND MATCHES WERE LOST
HIS NATURAL LUCK!
WITH THAT AWFUL LEADUP TO EVERYTHING
EVEN UP AGAINST THAT HEADWIND...

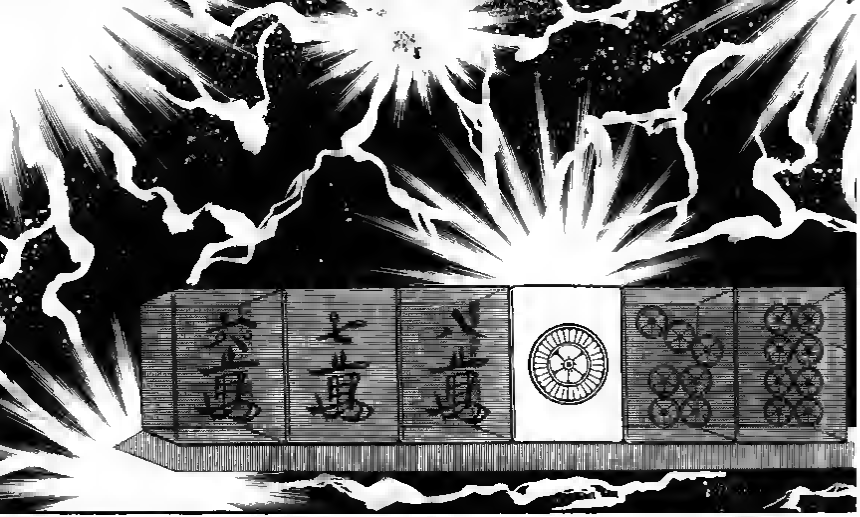
AND, AT THE MOST CRUCIAL MOMENT, HIS DEALER TURN, HE SPRANG BACK!
HE LAUGHED IN THE FACE OF ALL THAT ...
MORE THAN THAT
HE GOT THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME FOR THE NEW DORA...

RIICHI!
カッ
HE'S SECURED A SUREFIRE WAY TO WIN!
ナデ


INTO WASHIZU-SAMA'S
NOW, SUZUKI WILL DEAL RIGHT IN

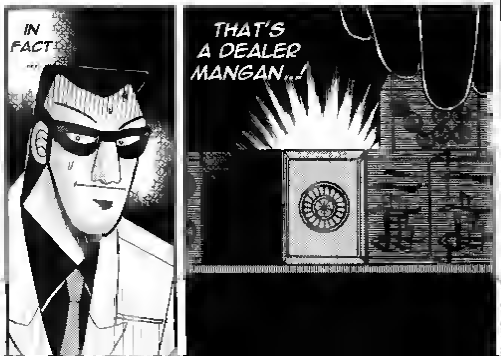
HE'S GOT A DEALER MANGAN!

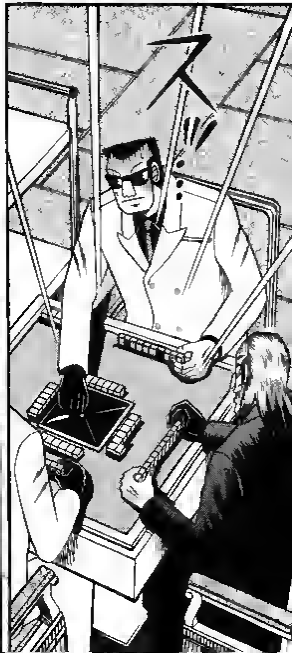
THAT'S IT!


1-PIN SINGLE WAIT!

THIS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF...
WITH ANY URA DORA AT ALL, THIS HAND COULD EASILY LEAP TO HANEMAN!
AND YET ...
HIS VICTORY OVER AKAGI ...!

RIICHI, IPPATSU, DORA 3 ...!

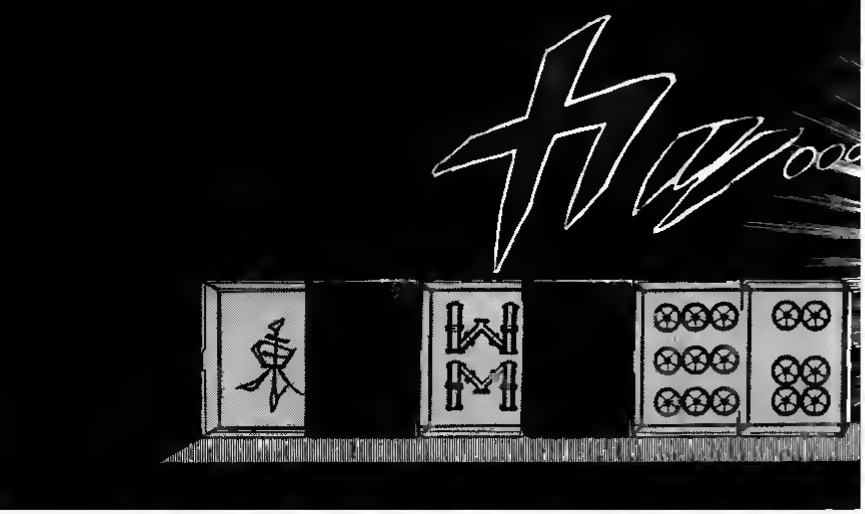

IN FACT ...
THAT'S A DEALER MANGAN...!



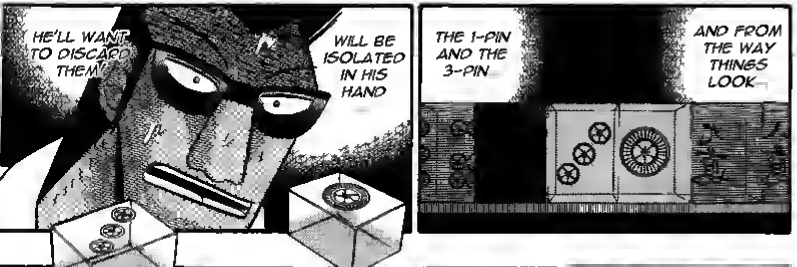
SUZUKI'S DEAL
EH ?!

DOES NOT PLAY INTO HIS HAND!
THE 1-PIN REMAINS IN HIS HAND
AND HE PLAYS A USE-LESS TILE, THE 2-MAN!

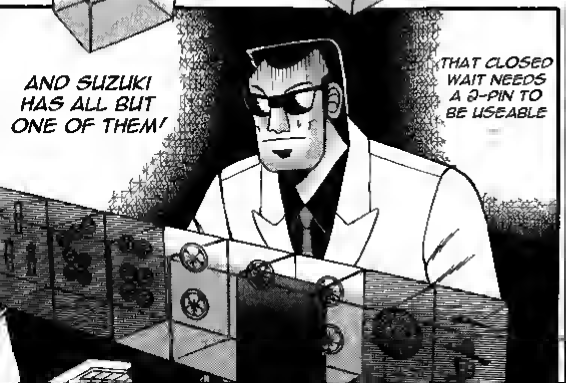
NO WAY
ざわ…
WHY ..?!
THAT 1-PIN
WHY DIDN'T HE PLAY THE 1-PIN ..?!
WAS THE TICKET TO A DEALER MANGAN ..!!



AKAGI'S HAND

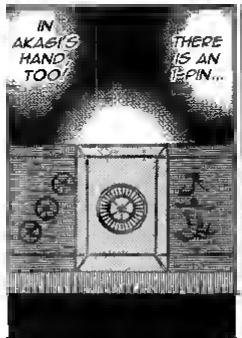

HE'LL WANT TO DISCARD THEM!
WILL BE ISOLATED IN HIS HAND

THE 1-PIN AND THE 3-PIN...
AND FROM THE WAY THINGS LOOK...


AND SUZUKI HAS ALL BUT ONE OF THEM!
THAT CLOSED WAIT NEEDS A 2-PIN TO BE USEABLE

THAT'S RIGHT! AND MORE THAN THAT...

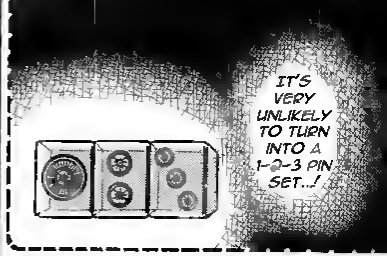
AH ...!

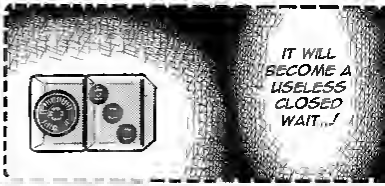

IN AKAGI'S HAND, TOO!
THERE IS AN 8-PIN...

THERE'S THAT, TOO ...!

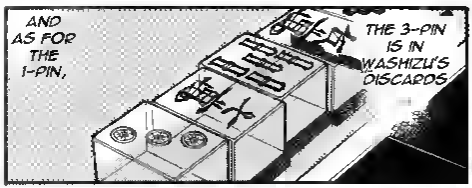
THAT'S RIGHT...!

AN OBVIOUS DISCARD


IT'S VERY UNLIKELY TO TURN INTO A 1-2-3 PIN SET..!


IT WILL BECOME A USELESS CLOSED WAIT...!

THERE'S NO WAY HE'D KEEP IT!

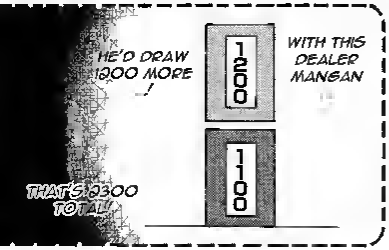

AND AS FOR THE 1-PIN,
THE 3-PIN IS IN WASHIZU'S DISCARDS

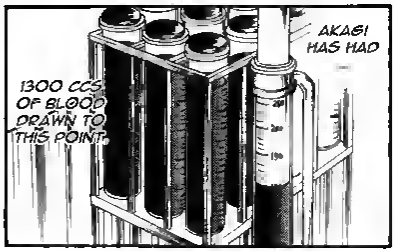
THE 1 AND 3 PIN SEEM A LOT LIKE SAFE TILES!
PLUS, BOTH OF THEM

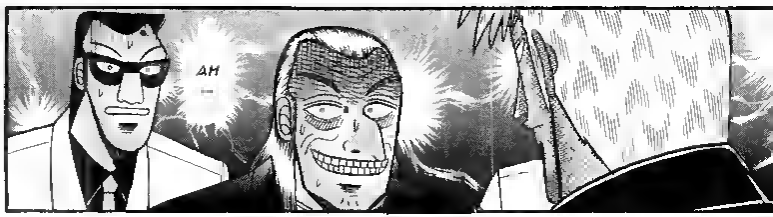
IT SHOULD SEEM LIKE A SAFE TILE, TOO!
BECAUSE WASHIZU DIDN'T WIN WITH IT RIGHT WHEN THE FIRST CHANCE AROSE,

USUALLY, IN WASHIZU MAHJONG
AFTER ALL, IT'S RIGHT IN PLAIN SIGHT IN SUZUKI'S HAND!
YOU'D WANT TO SECURE A WIN WITH THAT 1-PIN STRAIGHT AWAY!
HE'D NEVER DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD PREVENT WASHIZU FROM WINNING!
PLUS, SINCE SUZUKI'S GOAL HERE IS SIMPLY TO AID WASHIZU-SAMA,
OF COURSE YOU WOULD!
AND AKAGI
THAT'S THE LOGIC THAT COMES FROM THE "SECOND POND" IN SUZUKI'S TILES!
SO THEREFORE, AKAGI SHOULD THINK THAT WASHIZU CAN'T WIN OFF OF ANY OF SUZUKI'S TILES... AND THAT ALL OF SUZUKI'S TILES ARE SAFE BY PROXY!
SO NOW
WILL END UP REFERRING TO IT, TIME AND TIME AGAIN!

AKAGI'S HAND
THE QUESTION IS...
WILL HE DEAL THAT 1-PIN ...?

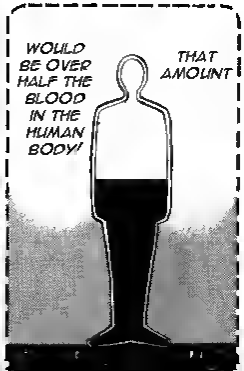

HE'D DRAW 1900 MORE!
1400
1700
WITH THIS DEALER MANGAN
THAT'S 3300 TOTAL!


1300 CCS OF BLOOD DRAWN TO THIS POINT.
AKAGI HAS HAD


AH...

HE WOULD DIE, NO QUESTIONS ASKED!

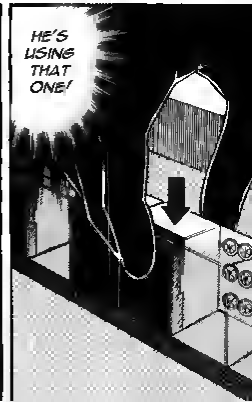
HE'D DIE!
THERE WOULD NOT BE A SINGLE HOPE FOR HIS SURVIVAL!


WOULD BE OVER HALF THE BLOOD IN THE HUMAN BODY!
THAT AMOUNT

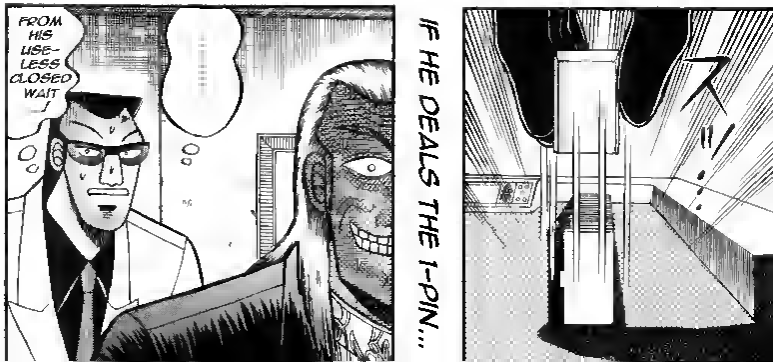
IF HE CUTS THE 1-PIN
SO NOW

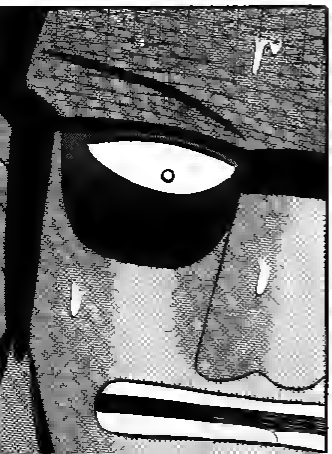
HE'LL DIE!

...?

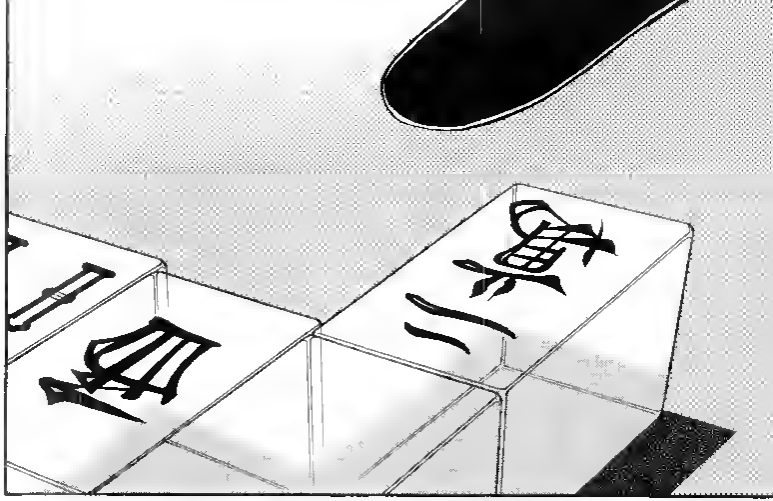

HE'S USING THAT ONE!

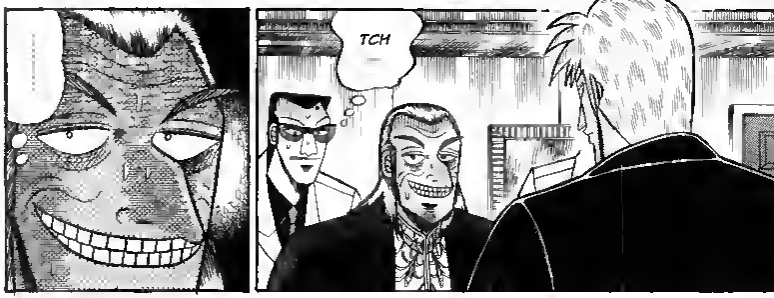
THE DEALING OF DEATH...!
死の一打っ……！

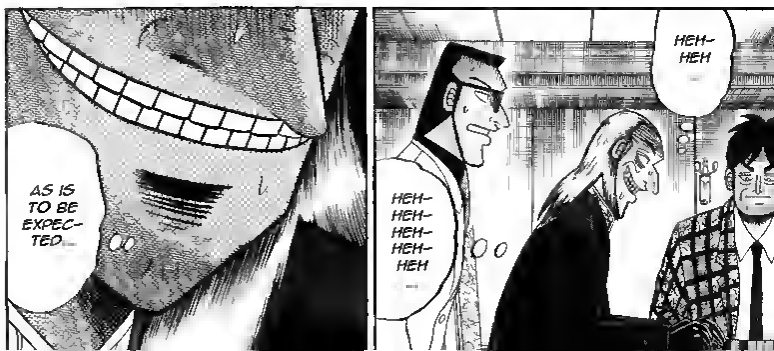

ス!!
IF HE DEALS THE 1-PIN...
FROM HIS USE-LESS CLOSED WAIT



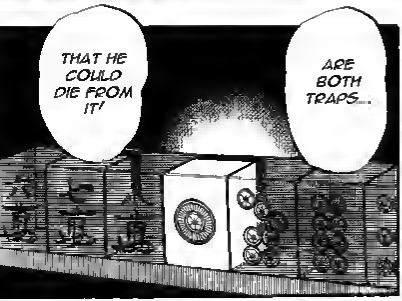
URGH ...!



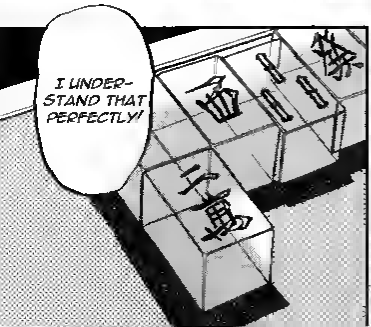

TCH


AS IS TO BE EXPEC-TED...
HEH-HEH
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH

IT SEEMS HE CAN SENSE THAT MUCH, AT THE VERY LEAST.

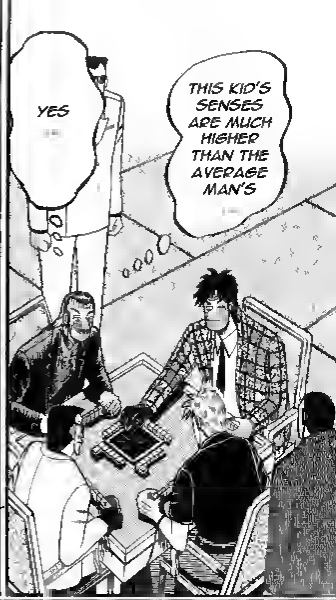

ARE BOTH TRAPS...
THAT HE COULD DIE FROM IT!

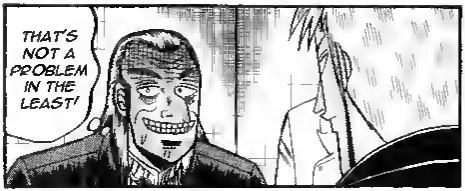
HE CAN SENSE THAT NOT DEALING IN FOR AN IPPATSU...
AND THE 1-PIN IN HIS HAND


I UNDER-STAND THAT PERFECTLY!

THAT MAKES TOTAL SENSE...

THEY'RE SIMPLY EXTRAOR-DINARY!


YES
THIS KID'S SENSES ARE MUCH HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE MAN'S


THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM IN THE LEAST!

AND SO HE DECIDED NOT TO DIVE IN STRAIGHT AWAY...
TO TEST THE WATERS A BIT AT FIRST!
BUT

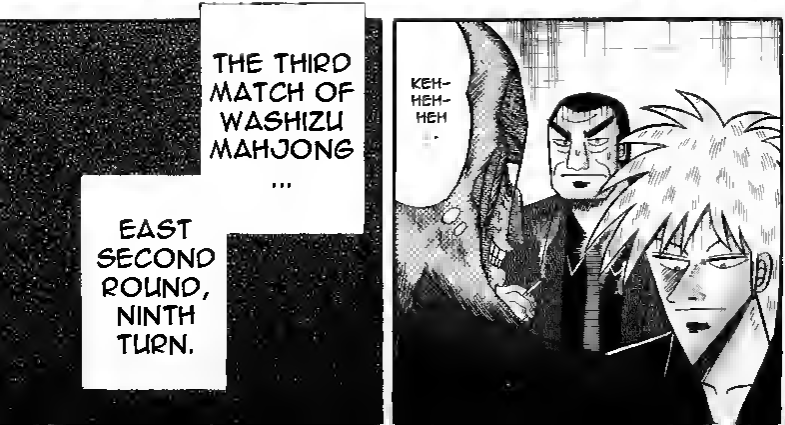
AND HAVING SOMEONE DEAL INTO MY HAND RIGHT AFTER!
THE WAY THINGS ARE, I SHOULD ONLY GET POINTS FROM SETTING UP A RIICHI...
NO OTHER WAY ABOUT IT

EVEN THOUGH IT IS GLARINGLY OBVIOUS
THIS TRAP
IT JUST WON'T DO!
BUT THAT WON'T SCARE YOU ENOUGH!
I'LL KEEP IT UP!
IT SHOULD GET INTERESTING ONCE YOU BEGIN TO DOUBT IT ...!
HE WILL BE CAUGHT BY THE LOGIC OF THE "SECOND POND"!
YES, IT WILL DISTURB HIM...
THAT BETRAYAL OF LOGIC SHOULD THROW HIM OFF COURSE
IN OTHER WORDS, THE FACT THAT I DECIDED NOT TO USE MY NORMAL STRATEGY OF HAVING SUZUKI DEAL IN AFTER I RIICHI
LIKE AN EARTH TREMOR
AND THAT IS SOMETHING I WOULD SIMPLY LOVE TO SEE!

HE WILL BE IN A VERY... VERY... VERY DANGEROUS POSITION...!
THE EFFECTS OF THAT DISTURBANCE WILL SHAKE HIM TO THE CORE...!
HEH-HEH-HEH ...!
Ooo

CHAPTER 97 - POSTPONEMENT

第97話猶予



KHA-HA-HA...
OH-HO-HO-HO...
THE DEALER IS WASHIZU, WITH A RIICHI THAT COULD TURN THE GAME AROUND 180 DEGREES...!
JUST NOW, THIS HAND...
YES...
THAT'S RIGHT...
THIS DRAW COULD GIVE HIM AN IPPATSU TSUMO!
THAT ALONE IS A HANE-MAN HAND!
AND IF I SCORE AN IPPATSU MENZEN TSUMO, THAT'S 6 HAN!
AND DEALER TURN! RIICHI, DORA 3...
GOT THE BEST POSSIBLE DORA!
THERE'S NO HURRY, HERE!
NO NEED TO RUSH...
I'VE DECIDED TO HOLD OFF ON HAVING SUZUKI DEAL INTO MY HAND...!

AND SINCE HE'S
THAT'S 6000 FROM EVERY-ONE!
DEALER HANEMAN TSUMO
IF I GET WHAT I NEED
RIGHT HERE AND NOW
BECAUSE OF THAT
LOST 1100 CCS TO THIS POINT
NO, RATHER
THAT'S JUST SHORT OF DEATH
A TOTAL OF 1700 CCS TO THIS POINT...!
600
1100
HE WOULD LOSE 600 CCS OF BLOOD
KEH-HEH-HEH

IT WOULD NOT BE STRANGE IF HE WERE TO DIE AT THAT POINT...!
HE'D BE AT DEATH'S DOOR, ALREADY!
THIS 1-PIN SINGLE WAIT
THEN THAT MAN RIGHT THERE
IF I GET IT RIGHT NOW
IF THIS IS THE RIGHT ONE...!
...WILL DIE!!

IF IT'S AN 1-PIN...
HE'LL DIE...!
KEH-HEH-HEH...
HEH-HEH...

WHEW
KEH-HEH-HEH
KEH-HEH-HEH HEH-HEH
HE CAN'T FIGHT IT !!
AS MUCH AS HE WANTS TO...
HE WOULD HAVE DIED ..!
YES... IF IT WERE AN 1-PIN ...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, HE WOULD HAVE DIED IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN!

KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...
KEH-HEH-HEH ...

WHY WAS I IN SUCH AN AWFUL RUSH...?

YES, YES ...
KHA-HA-HA-HA ...

THERE'S NO REASON TO GET NERVOUS AND LOSE TRACK OF MYSELF!
DID NOT GO EXACTLY AS ACCORDING TO PLAN...

AS WELL AS THE FIRST ROUND OF THIS THIRD MATCH
WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT THE FIRST AND SECOND MATCHES

HOW THOUGHT-LESS I WAS!

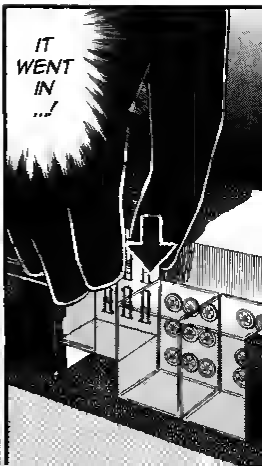
I'M IN A GREATLY SUPERIOR POSITION!
EVEN NOW, I STILL HAVE A TRULY MASSIVE ADVANTAGE!
WHY WAS I EVEN THINKING ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING ?
THAT'S RIGHT ...

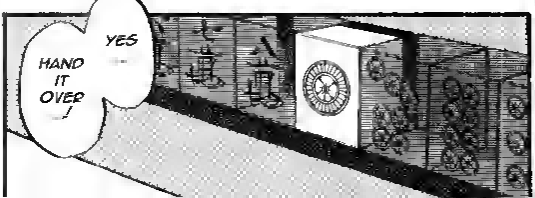
NO ONE ELSE!
SHOULD BE HIM, OF COURSE ...!
AT THE MO-MENT, THE ONE TREM-BLING

STAND BEFORE THE GATES OF HELL!
THAT'S ALL IT WOULD TAKE.
THAT MAN WILL, WITHOUT A DOUBT
IF HE DEALS THAT TILE AT ANY POINT...

IF HE JUST DEALS IT HERE ...!

KEH-HEH HEH


IT WENT IN ...!

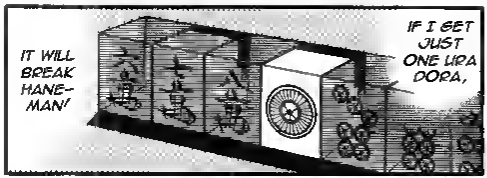

YES
HAND IT OVER!

YOUR BLOOD WILL BE DRAINED OUT OF YOU ...
IF YOU DO, YOU SHALL DIE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!
TOO BAD, THAT'S IT.
AND YOU WILL DIE!!

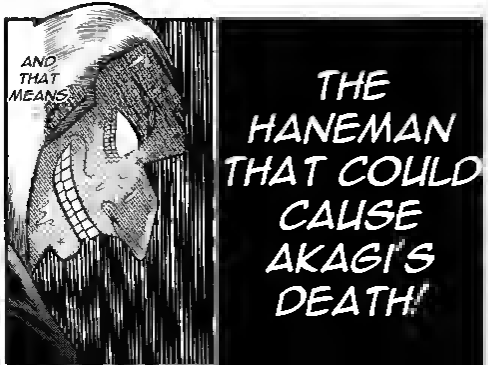
HE MADE IT OUT AGAIN, I SEE...
ざわ…
HEH-HEH-HEH...
ざわ…
ざわ…
THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO WORRY
RIGHT NOW, THE ONE WHO'S RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE...
THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE!
IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND...!
THAT'S RIGHT...
KHA-HA-HA-HA...

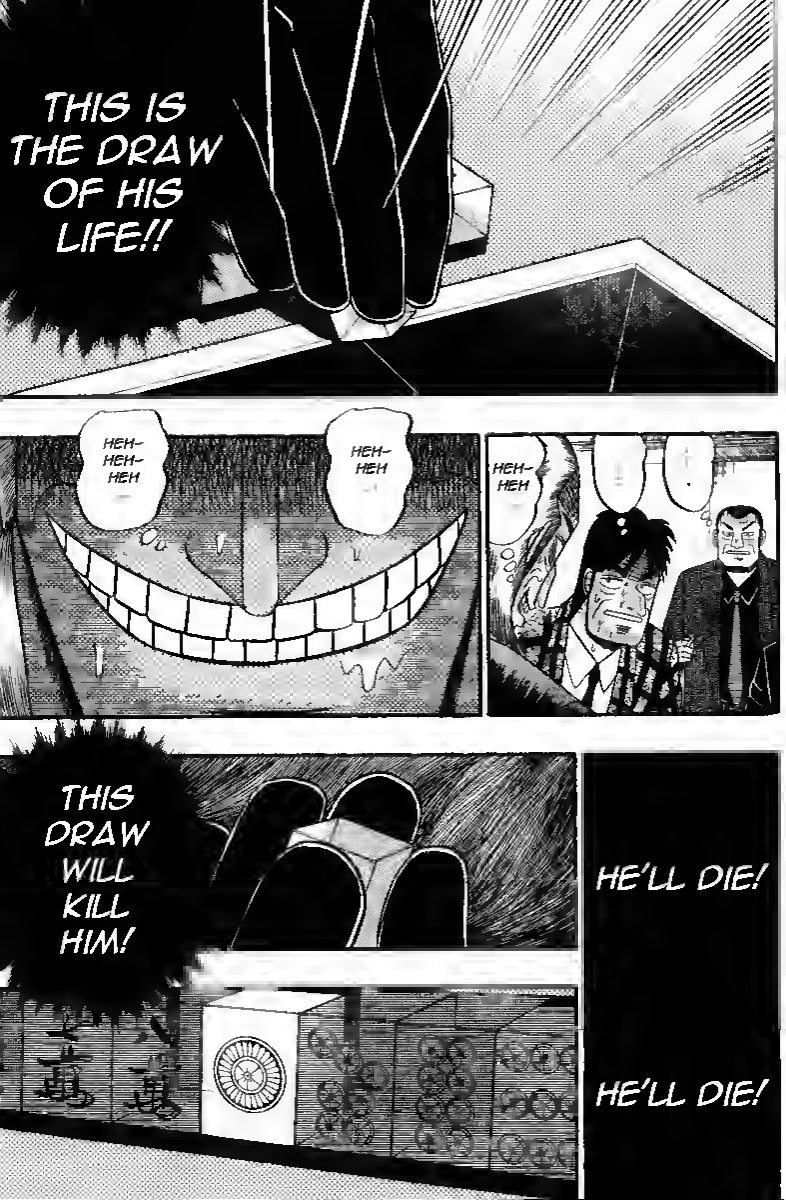
IT'S HIM!
HE'S THE ONE ACTUALLY STRUGGLING!
HE IS ABLE TO SEE ...
THAT I HAVE AT LEAST A MANGAN ...
PERHAPS EVEN A HANEMAN!
I'M THE ONE WITH ALL THE POWER HERE
I CAN TRAP HIM WITH JUST THIS HAND!
HEH-HEH
THAT'S RIGHT!
BE FRIGHTENED...!

I HOLD EVERY BIT OF POWER IN THIS MATCH...!


IT WILL BREAK HANE-MAN!
IF I GET JUST ONE URA DORA,

EVEN WITHOUT AN IPPATSU...
IF I CAN DRAW IT HERE...


AND THAT MEANS...
THE HANEMAN THAT COULD CAUSE AKAGI'S DEATH!


THIS IS THE DRAW OF HIS LIFE!!
HEH-HEH-HEH
HEH-HEH
HEH-HEH
THIS DRAW WILL KILL HIM!
HE'LL DIE!
HE'LL DIE!

KEH-HEH-HEH...
HUH
WHEW...
カチャ!!
KHA-HA-HA!

WA-SHIZU-SAMA ...
WITH THIS I-PIN ...?
WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?
SUZUKI'S HAND
AND BESIDES, TAKE A LOOK AT THEIR HANDS!
I CAN WIN WHENEVER I WANT LATER ON
LET ME HAVE SOME MORE FUN, FIRST!
DON'T RUSH IT -- DON'T YOU RUSH IT!
SHOULD I PLAY IT NOW?
QUIT YOUR WOR-RY-ING!

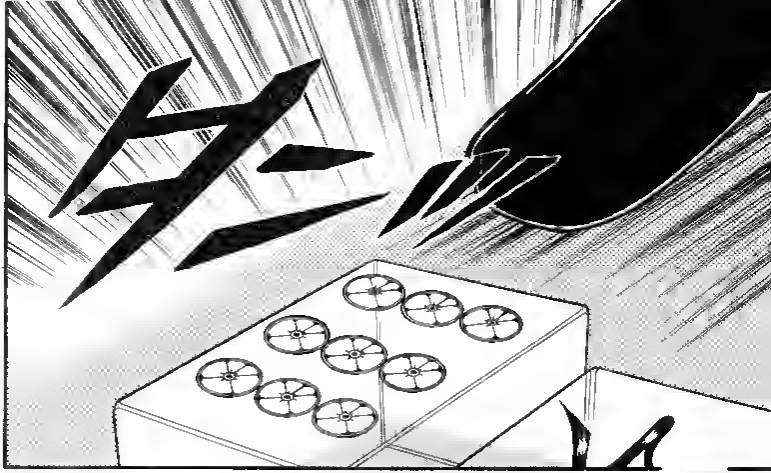
……
ざわ…
THERE'S REALLY NOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT!
AS FOR AKAGI,
WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.
HE WON'T GET TO TENPAI FOR A WHILE, YET.
RYAN SHAN TEN AT THE VERY BEST
IT'S BEEN TORN TO PIECES!
AKAGI'S HAND
IT'S FAR ENOUGH AWAY THAT WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT
THE COP'S HAND
AT LEAST, NOT YET.
ざわ…ざわ…
YOU SEE?
IT'S UNLIKELY HE CAN GET IT ANYWHERE SOON.
BUT UNLESS HE CAN CALL THE THIRD OR DRAW IT
HE HAS A PAIR OF CHUN, WHICH IS KEY,
YASUOKA'S HAND

THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S WAITING ON A 2-PIN, OF WHICH YOU HAVE THREE!
HIS 1-PIN AND 3-PIN ARE SIMPLY USELESS!
AND MORE THAN THAT,
SO THERE'S NO WAY TO FILL IT IN!
ONCE HE GETS THERE ARE JUST MINISCULE!
THE CHANCE OF HIM WINNING
EVEN IF HE GETS TO TENPAI, HE MUST WAIT ON THE 2-PIN!
AS LONG AS IT IS THERE,
SIR.
GET BACK TO THE GAME!
COME ON, LET'S GO!
DO YOU SEE WHAT I'M SAYING?

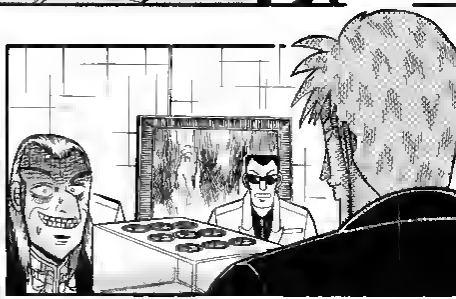
AND PLENTY OF IT!
I STILL HAVE TIME TO KILL...
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH...
WASHIZU KEEPS HIS SUBORDINATE ON STANDBY.
HE STALLS ONCE AGAIN...
SUZUKI'S TENTH TURN
AND NOW, AKAGI TAKES HIS TURN...!

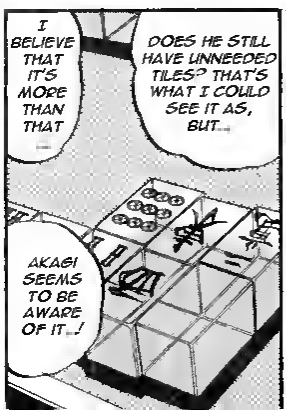
HE REACHES HIS HAND INTO THE TILES...
...AND TAKES OUT A 3-PIN!
OHHHHH?
...
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH...

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
HOW INTRIGUING!
AKAGI HAS MADE A PAIR OF THEM!
WITH THIS DRAW OF THE 3-PIN
WHICH MEANS...
THE 1-PIN IS NOW TOTALLY ISOLATED!
KEH-HEH-HEH
SO, IT WOULD BE BEST TO JUST BE RID OF IT!
WILL HE...?!
THAT 1-PIN...!!



KEH-
HEH-
HEH




I BELIEVE THAT IT'S MORE THAN THAT
DOES HE STILL HAVE UNNEEDED TILES? THAT'S WHAT I COULD SEE IT AS, BUT...
AKAGI SEEMS TO BE AWARE OF IT...!

ざわ...
SO HE DIDN'T, THEN

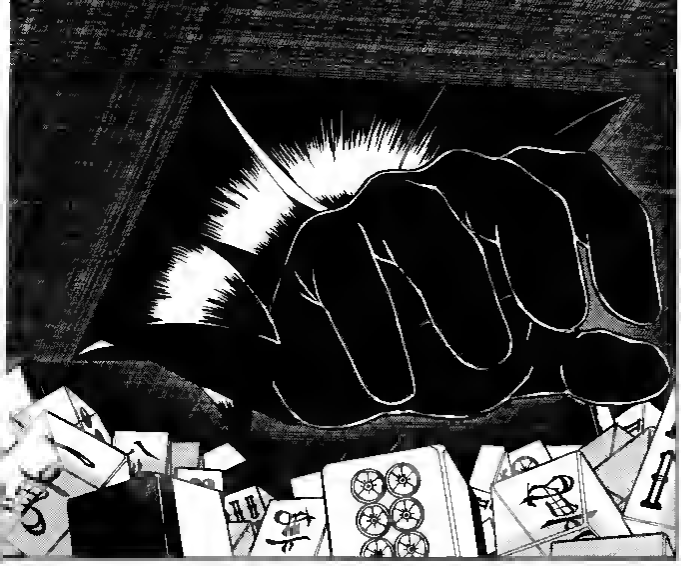
I SEE THAT IS FINE!
ざわ...
ざわ...

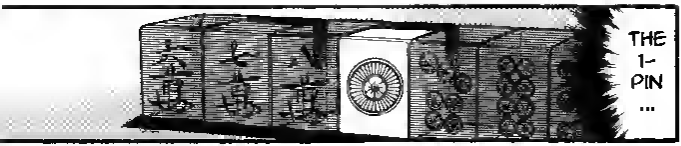
HE CANNOT DEAL THAT 1-PIN
HE FEELS THAT THE 1-PIN THAT SUZUKI HAS BEEN HOLDING ON TO
IS JUST A TRAP TO LURE HIM INTO DEALING IT HIMSELF!

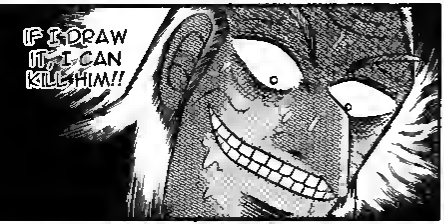
HEH-HEH-HEH
KHA-HA-HA
.....
ピン

IT'S FOR CER-TAIN
HE SIMPLY MUST KNOW!
BUT NONE OF THAT MAT-TERS
IF I CAN DRAW IT HERE AND NOW!
THE START OF THE 11TH TURN
THE DEALER, WASHIZU, TAKES HIS DRAW!

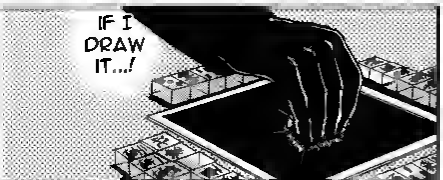
ざわ
Ooo
THAT'S RIGHT ...!
完了(かんりょう)する……！
IT'S ALL OVER NOW...!
わしが今……引けば……！
I WILL DRAW IT HERE AND NOW...!


IF I DRAW IT HERE, IT'S ALL OVER!!


THE 1-PIN ...

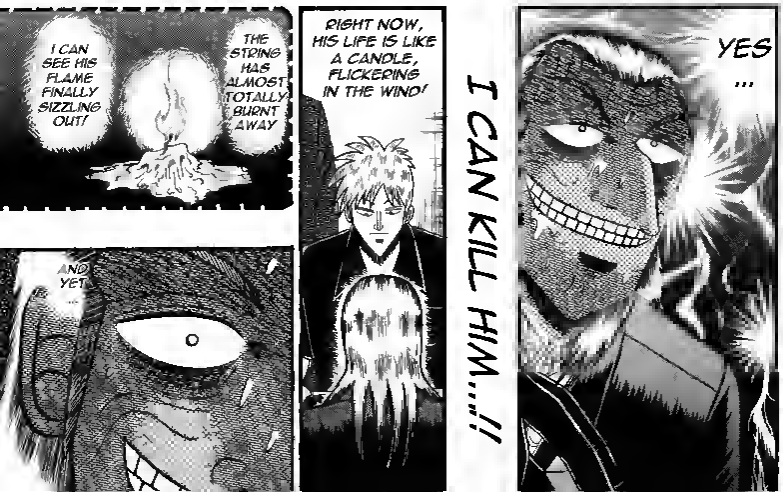

IF I DRAW IT, I CAN KILL HIM!!

THE 1-PIN ...!!


IF I DRAW IT...!

THIS MAN WILL DIE ...!
I CAN FINALLY SEE HIS DEATH ...
第98話強欲
CHAPTER 98 - GREED

ざわ…
HEH-HEH-HEH
WASHIZU 21000 POINTS
DOWN 1915 MILLION YEN
(MINUS 1000 POINTS FROM RICHI)
THIRD HANCHAN, EAST 2ND ROUND,
0 HONBA
AKAGI 37,000 POINTS, -1100 CCS
TOTAL EARNINGS: 1915 MILLION YEN

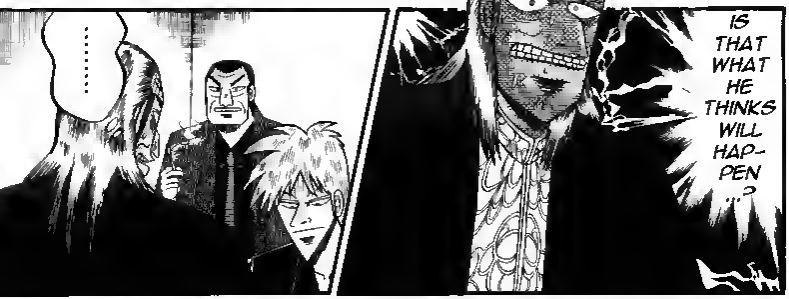

I CAN SEE HIS FLAME FINALLY SIZZLING OUT!
THE STRING HAS ALMOST TOTALLY BURNT AWAY
RIGHT NOW, HIS LIFE IS LIKE A CANDLE, FLICKERING IN THE WIND!
I CAN KILL HIM...!!
YES ...
AND YET ...

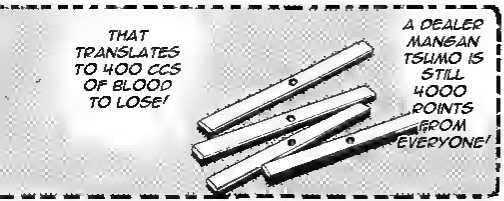
SOME-HOW, HE'S STILL SO CALM!
HE'S ALMOST DEAD, BUT...
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT...?!
HE...
GRRH...

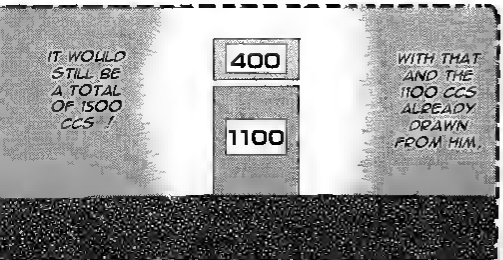
FOR GOD'S SAKE
HAHH
...
IT'S ALWAYS THE ONES AROUND HIM WHO GET SCARED!
THIS IS NO FUN!
TCH ...!
.....
WHEW ...

THE ONE MOST IN DAN-GER ...
THIS KID RE-MAINS FIRM!!
WHY WON'T HE TREMBLE?!
WHY ISN'T HE AFRAID?!
THAT'S BORING ...
THAT IT WILL NEVER COME TO THAT ...?!
IS HE RATION-ALIZING THAT IT CANNOT HAPPEN TO HIM ?!
IS THAT WHAT IT IS?!
DOES HE THINK THAT HE IS IMMUNE TO DEATH ...?!

IN OTHER WORDS, THAT EVEN IF I DRAW THE WINNING TILE ON MY TURN ...
I WILL NOT GET ANY URA-DORA
AND IT WILL REMAIN AT A DEALER RIICHI DORA 3 MENZEN TSUMO MANGAN ?
THAT IT WILL NOT REACH HANEMAN


IS THAT WHAT HE THINKS WILL HAP-PEN ...?
.....


A DEALER MANGAN TSUMO IS STILL 4000 POINTS FROM EVERYONE!
THAT TRANSLATES TO 400 CCS OF BLOOD TO LOSE!


WITH THAT AND THE 1100 CCS ALREADY DRAWN FROM HIM,
400
1100
IT WOULD STILL BE A TOTAL OF 1500 CCS !

NO ...
EVEN IF THAT IS WHAT ENDS UP HAPPE-NING...

AFTER LOSING THAT MUCH, HE'D ONLY BARELY BE HOLDING ON!
HE WOULDN'T DIE FROM JUST THAT, BUT HE'D STILL BE LIGHTHEADED!
AND IF HE KEPT PLAYING DESPITE ALL OF THAT
ONLY HALF-ALIVE...
HARDLY ABLE TO THINK STRAIGHT!!!
HE'D BE STAGGERING
SELF-EXPLANATORY!
THAT'S OBVIOUS
IN THE END, HE'D DIE IN DUE TIME, ANYWAY!!
HE WOULD MOST ASSUREDLY MAKE MISTAKES...!!

AND EVEN IF HE DOESN'T ...
DOES HE NOT UNDER-STAND THAT SIM-PLE FACT ...?!
なぜ…震えぬっ…!?
WHY ISN'T HE AFRAID OF DEATH ...?
なぜ…!?
WHY?!

DO YOU NOT FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE?!
AREN'T YOU AT ALL AFRAID OF DEATH ...?!?!
GRGH ..!!
IMPOS-SIBLE !
死ぬことが……！
OF DEATH...!
死ぬことが……！
OF DEATH...!
死ぬことが……！
OF DEATH...!

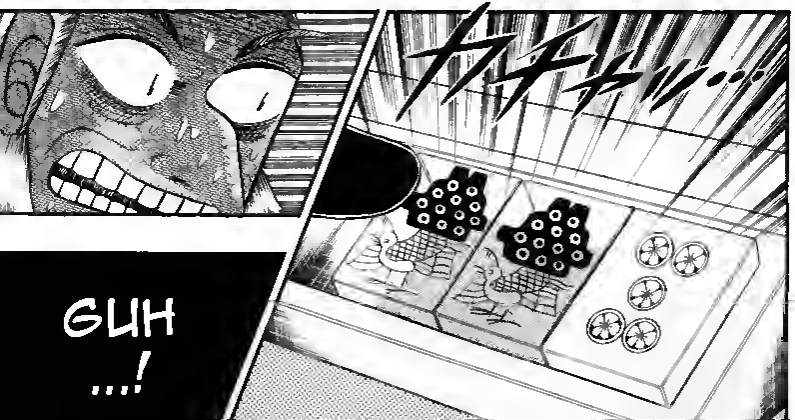
IT'S ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE...
WHAT THE-?!
AHH...!!
HOW CURIOUS
DO IT!
SIR

KAN!
GUH ...!!
ざわ
ON THE 11TH TURN ...!
WASHIZU'S ALLY, SUZUKI,
CALLS A CLOSED KAN OF 2-PIN!

TO ADD MORE DORA TO WASHIZU'S HAND!
A KAN THAT SEEKS
A CLOSED KAN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BACKING WASHIZU UP!
A VERY GREEDY CLOSED KAN!

AND ...
WHA ...?
?
URGH ...!!

IT
BEARS
FRUIT...!

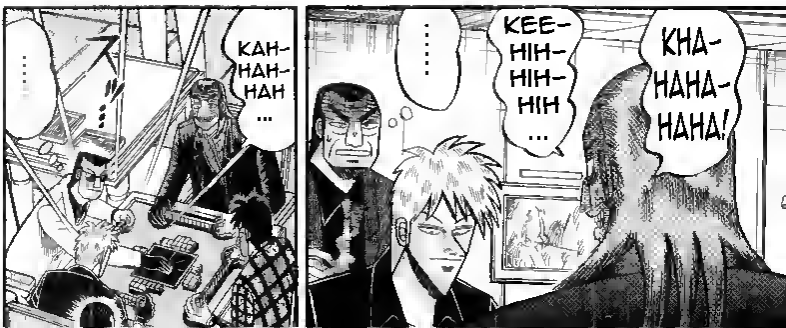


THAT'S RIGHT ...!
THE NEW DORA INDICA-TOR IS AN 1-SOU!
WHICH MEANS ...
WASHI-ZU'S HAND ...
EVOLVES ONCE MORE!!

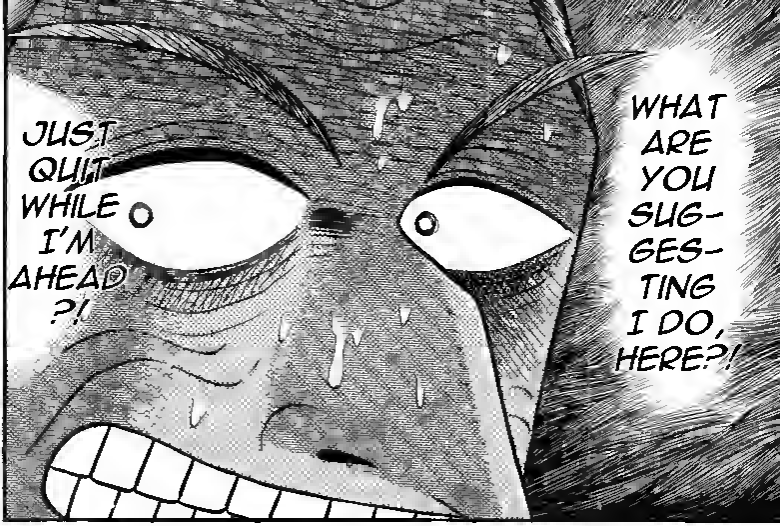
IT TRANS-FORMS ...
INTO A DORA 6 HAND ...!!
WASHIZU HAS A DORA 6 ...!!!
GAH...!!
KH...!
WITH THIS NEW KAN ...

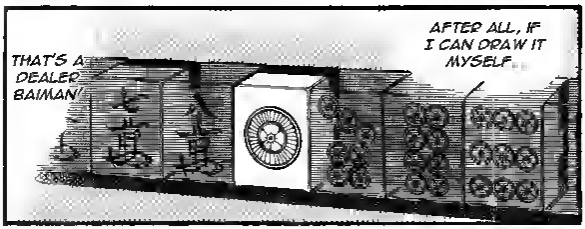
WASHIZU'S HAND IS NOW A RIICHI, DORA 6 DEALER HANEMAN!!
IF HE GETS A SINGLE URA DORA ...
OR WINS WITH A MENZEN TSUMO ...
IT COULD BECOME A DEALER BAIMAN ...!!
A TRULY UNBELIE-VABLE HAPPEN-STANCE!
GRH ...
KH ...!
KHAAAAH
HA HA HA HAAAH !!!
IT IS SWARMING ALL AROUND HIM...

SOME-
THING
IS HAP-
PENING
WITH
WASHIZU-
SAMA TO
MAKE IT
SWARM
AROUND
HIM...
THIS
TRE-
MEN-
DOUS
MASS
OF
LUCK!!
KAH-
HAH-
HAH
...

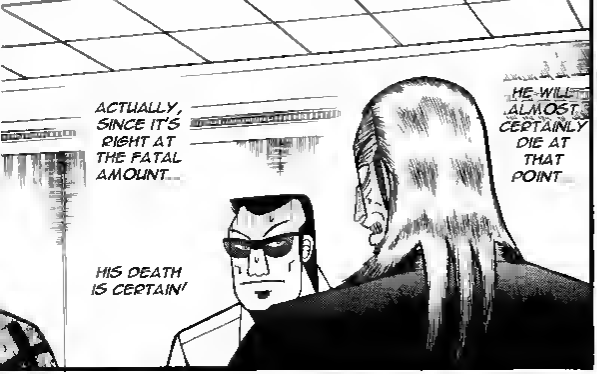

KHA-
HAHA-
HAHA!
KEE-
HIH-
HIH-
HIH
...
KAH-
HAH-
HAH
...

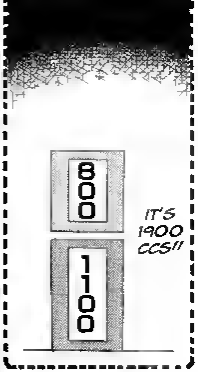
WASHI-ZU-SAMA ...
WHAT HAP-PENS NOW ...?
カチャ!
チラ...
SHOULD I DEAL IN NOW?
THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO LET YOU WIN...
A DEALER BAIMAN IS VERY LIKELY RIGHT NOW!
NO... WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE, YOU'RE SURE TO GET URA-DORA!
NOW THAT YOU HAVE A DEALER HANEMAN FOR SURE ...
YOU REALLY ARE STUPID!
.....

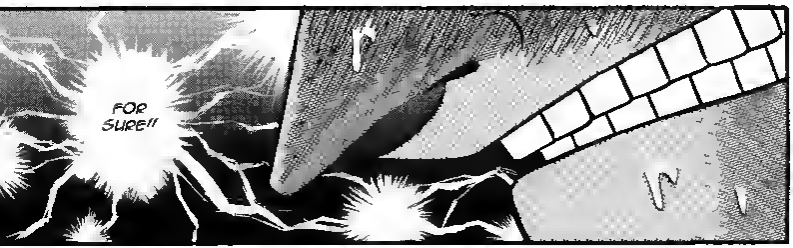


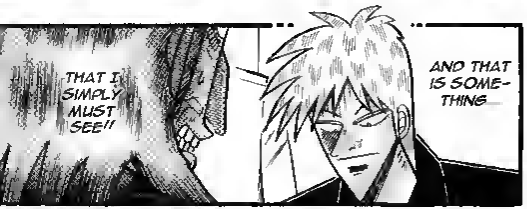


DON'T YOU EVEN THINK OF THAT! KEEP PLAYING!!


ACTUALLY, SINCE IT'S RIGHT AT THE FATAL AMOUNT...
HIS DEATH IS CERTAIN!
HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY DIE AT THAT POINT...


800
1100
IT'S 1900 CCS!!

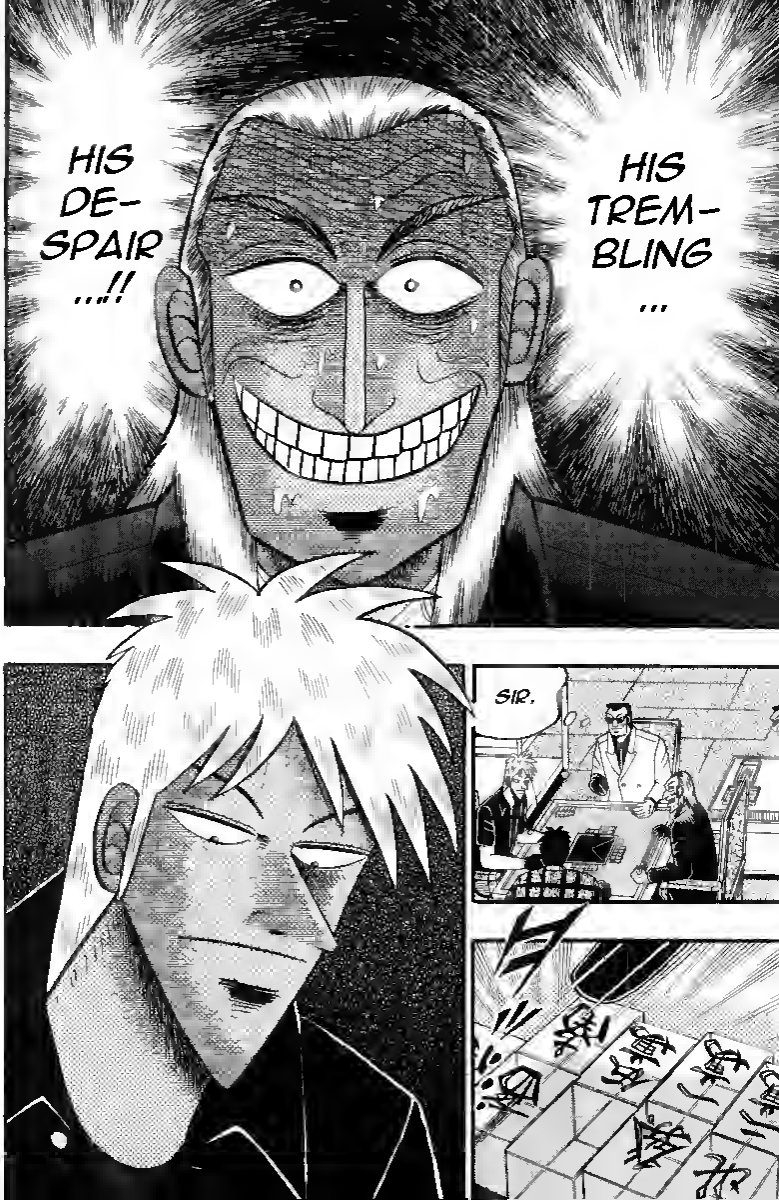

FOR SURE!!


THAT I SIMPLY MUST SEE!!
AND THAT IS SOME-THING...

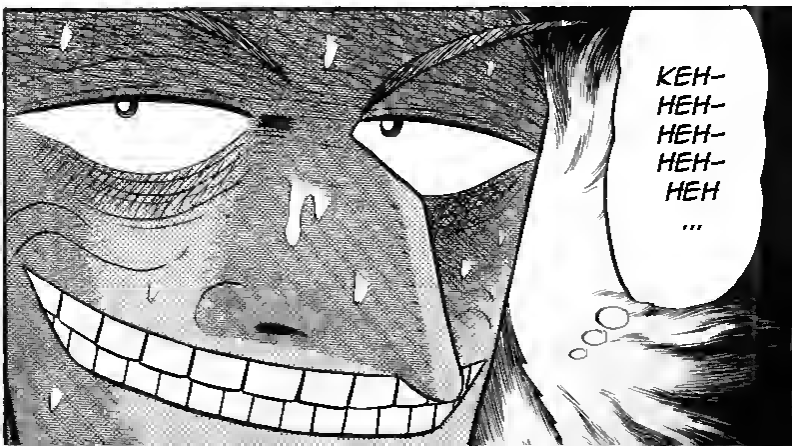
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, HE WILL BE TREMBLING!
IF HE'S RIGHT AT DEATH'S DOOR,

HIS AGONY ...!!

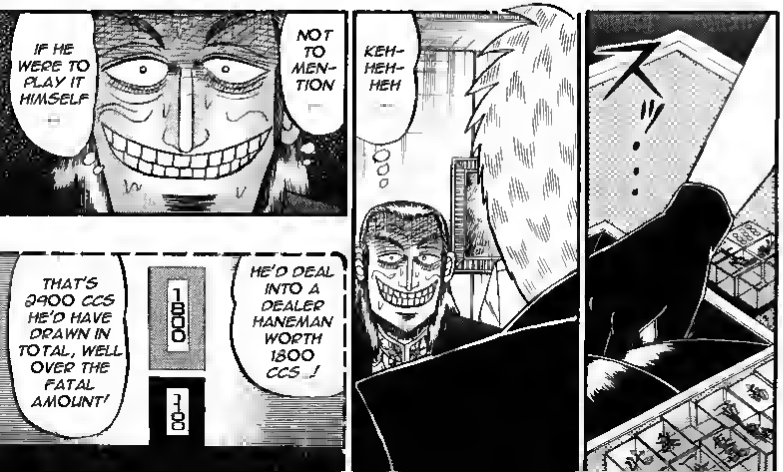
SHOW IT TO ME!!


HIS DE-SPAIR ...!!
HIS TREM-BLING ...
SIR.

CHAPTER 99 - GHOULS
第99話 魔物

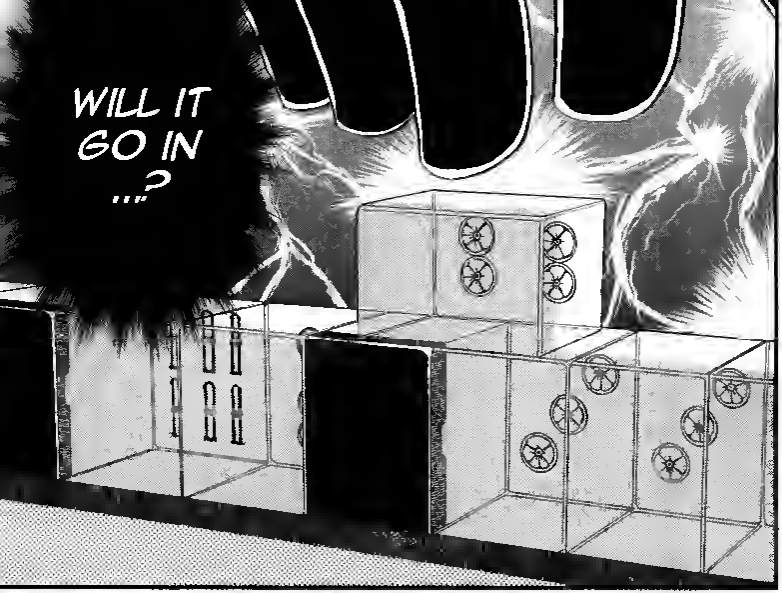

KEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

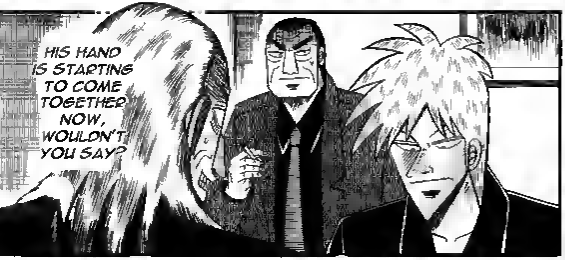
……
ざわ……
KEH-HEH-HEH…
KHA-HA-HA…
WASHIZU MAHJONG, EAST 2ND ROUND, 12TH HAND.
EAST SECOND ROUND, 0 HONBA
AKAGI: 37,000 POINTS
-1100 CCS
WASHIZU: 21,000 POINTS
DOWN 12.5 MILLION YEN
(-1000 POINTS FROM RIICHI)


IF HE WERE TO PLAY IT HIMSELF…
NOT TO MEN-TION
KEH-HEH-HEH…
!!
…
THAT'S 2900 CCS HE'D HAVE DRAWN IN TOTAL, WELL OVER THE FATAL AMOUNT!
1800
100
HE'D DEAL INTO A DEALER HANEMAN WORTH 1800 CCS…!

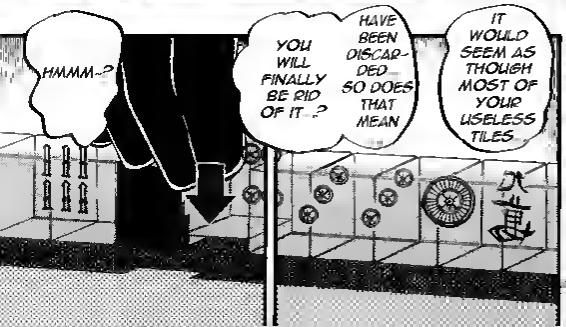
AT THAT MOMENT, HE'D LOSE 800 CCS…
IF I CAN TSUMO, THAT'S IT FOR HIM!
RIICHI, TSUMO, DORA 6
HE'LL DIE!
THAT'S 1900 CCS TOTAL, RIGHT UP AT THE FATAL AMOUNT
NOW, LET'S SEE IT…!
KEH-HEH-HEH…

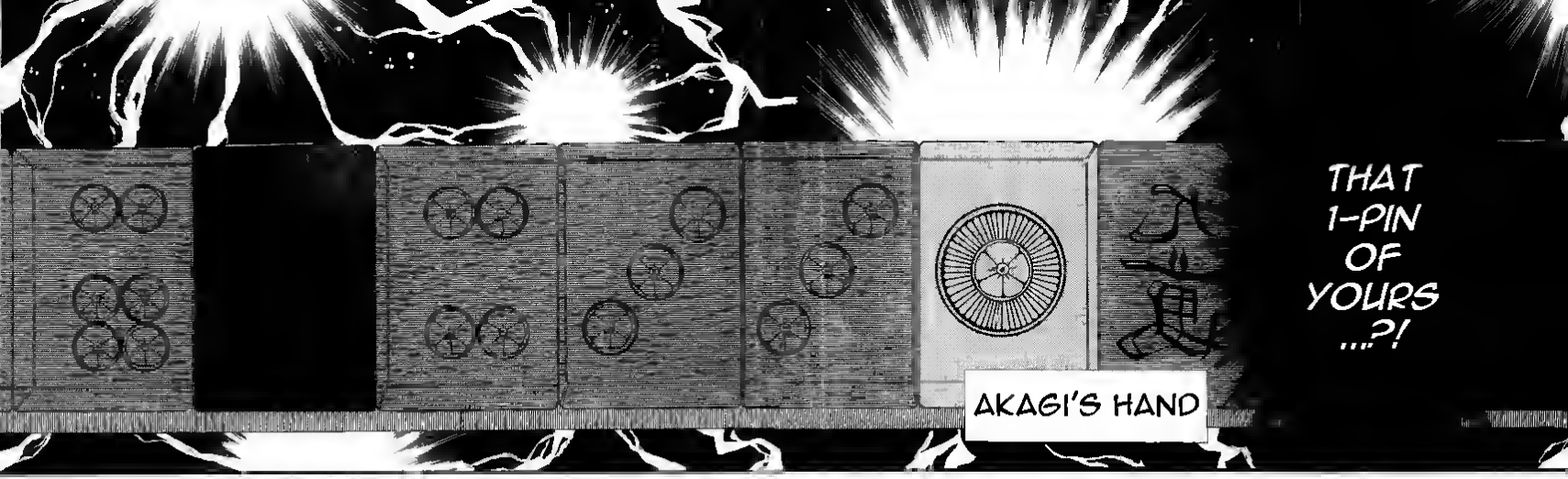
AND SO THEN, YOU WOULD DIE...!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...!
AHH?


WILL IT GO IN ...?


HIS HAND IS STARTING TO COME TOGETHER NOW, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

THIS REALLY IS INTE-RESTING
KEH-HEH-HEH

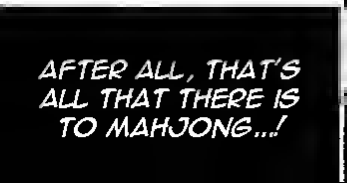

HMMM-?
YOU WILL FINALLY BE RID OF IT...?
HAVE BEEN DISCAR-DED... SO DOES THAT MEAN
IT WOULD SEEM AS THOUGH MOST OF YOUR USELESS TILES


THAT 1-PIN OF YOURS ...?!
AKAGI'S HAND

WANT TO GET RID OF IT? THAT USELESS TILE?
SO HOW ABOUT IT~?

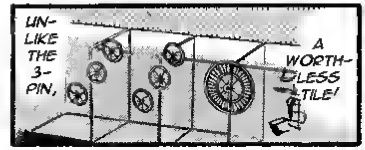
RIGHT~?
YOU MIGHT JUST BE THINKING TOO MUCH INTO IT!

SO IT MIGHT NOT BE A TRAP!
I MEAN, SUZUKI HASN'T DEALT IN WITH THE 1-PIN YET...


AFTER ALL, THAT'S ALL THAT THERE IS TO MAHJONG...!

WHAT POINT IS THERE IN KEEPING IT? YOU CAN'T GET INTO TENPAI WITH THAT NASTY WAIT!

KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH

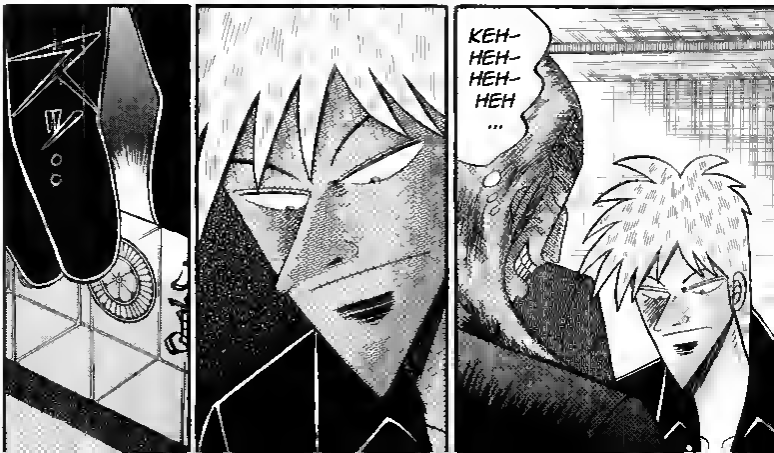

UN-LIKE THE 3-PIN,
A WORTH-LESS TILE!

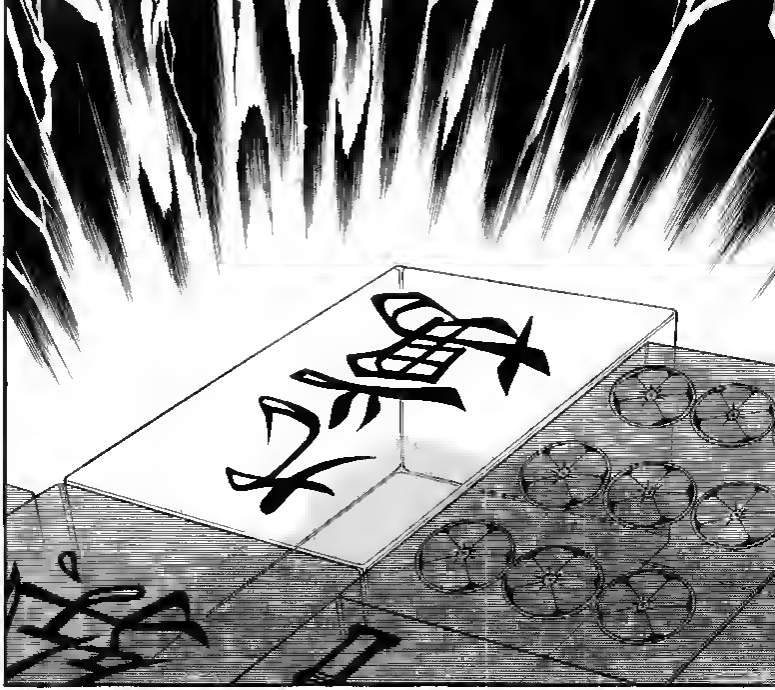
KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...
THAT 1-PIN WILL CER-TAINLY WEIGH YOU DOWN!

AND SO, THAT 1-3 PIN CLOSED WAIT CANNOT POSSIBLY FILL!

JUST NOW, WITH SUZUKI'S KAN, ALL THE 2-PINS WERE USED UP!

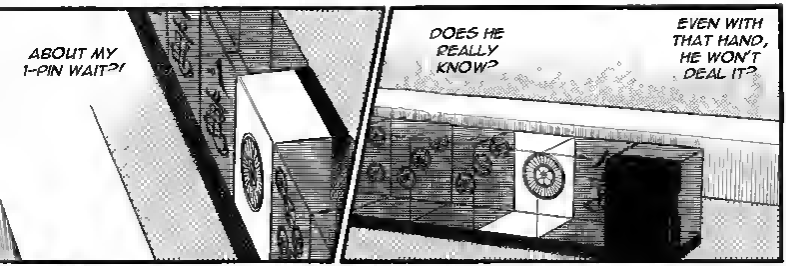
THAT 1-PIN!!!
WHO'S TO SAY THAT IT WOULDN'T PASS?
WASHIZU'S 1-PIN WAIT

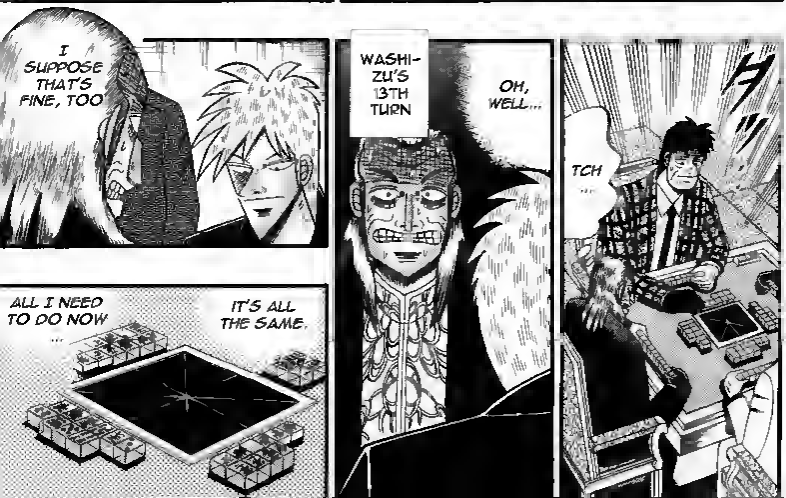

KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...



HEH ... HEH ...
KEH-HEH-HEH ...
TCH!

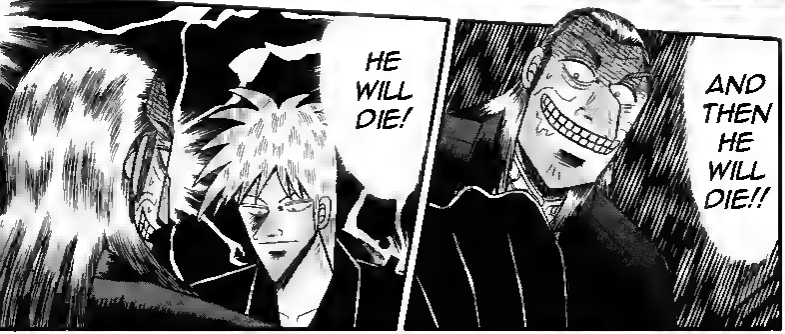
HE REALLY WON'T DEAL IT?
WHAT'S ALL THIS, THEN?

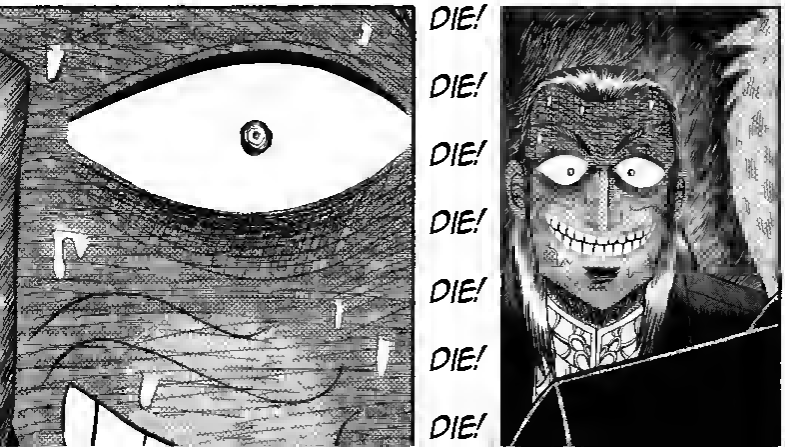

ABOUT MY 1-PIN WAIT?!
DOES HE REALLY KNOW?
EVEN WITH THAT HAND, HE WON'T DEAL IT?


I SUPPOSE THAT'S FINE, TOO
WASHI-ZU'S 13TH TURN
OH, WELL...
TCH...
ALL I NEED TO DO NOW...
IT'S ALL THE SAME.

...IS
DRAW IT
MYSELF
...!!

HERE AND NOW !!!


HE WILL DIE!
AND THEN HE WILL DIE!!


DIE!
DIE!
DIE!
DIE!
DIE!
DIE!
DIE!

DIE!!!

GRH...!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS...?!
WHY ... AREN'T YOU TREMBLING?!

WHY ...?
WHY ...?
WHY ...?
WHY ...?
WHY ...?
I MEAN IT!!
YOU'LL DIE!!
TCH...
YOU'LL DIE, YOU KNOW!
WITHOUT A DOUBT, FROM IT ...
IF I DRAW IT HERE ...
WHY AREN'T YOU FRIGHTENED?

ARE THOSE AROUND HIM!
AND ONCE AGAIN, THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN'T SO MUCH AS HIDE THEIR FEAR
...
HE ALWAYS REMAINS CALM, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
...

AH...!
URGH ..!

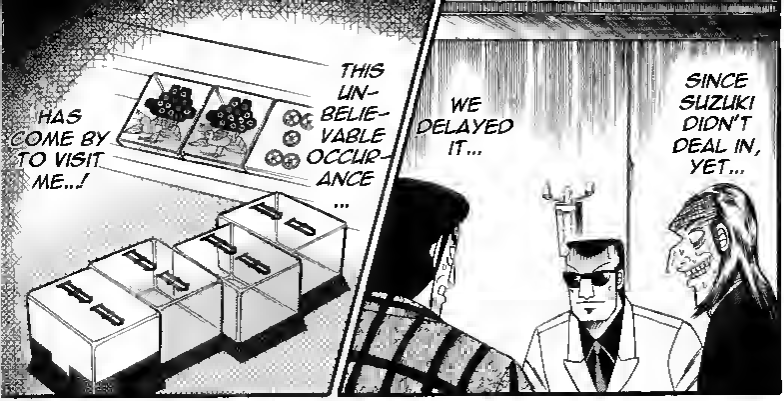
WHOOOOOOOAHHH!!

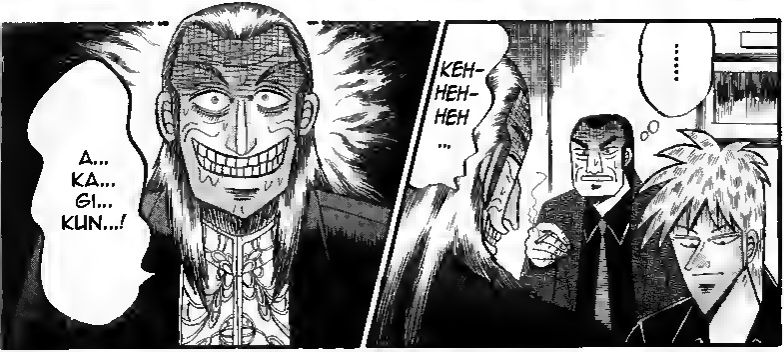
THIS FLOW ...?!
WHAT'S WITH THIS DRAW...
HE CAN MAKE A KAN NOW...
AND IT'S ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THIS 2-SOU KAN IS ...

DORA
8...!!

KAN!!
URGH...!!
KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH!!
ERGH
.....

KHI-
HI-
HI-
HI!!
KHA-
HA-
HA-
HA!!
KUU-
HU-
HU-
HU!!
KOH-
HO-
HO-
HO!!
THE EVIL SPIRIT IN ME ...
IT IS FINALLY HERE ...
AND WITH THIS ...


THIS UN-BELIE-VABLE OCCUR-ANCE ...
HAS COME BY TO VISIT ME...!
WE DELAYED IT...
SINCE SUZUKI DIDN'T DEAL IN, YET...


A... KA... GI... KUN...!
KEH-HEH-HEH ...
.....

YOU WILL DIE ON THIS VERY NIGHT ...!!
I HOPE YOU KNOW ...
.....

I HEAR A VOICE ...
IT CLAIMS TO HAVE DOMINION OVER MAHJONG ...
IT'S A VOICE STRAIGHT FROM HELL ...!
AND IT'S TELLING ME THAT TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT THAT A CERTAIN AKAGI SHIGERU WILL DIE...!!

KHA-HA-HA-HA!
KHU-HU-HU-HU-HU!!
KHI-HI-HI-HI!!
KHO-HO-HO-HO!!
……
KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...!
ゴゴゴ
ざわ…

アカギ11/完
AKAGI 11 - FIN